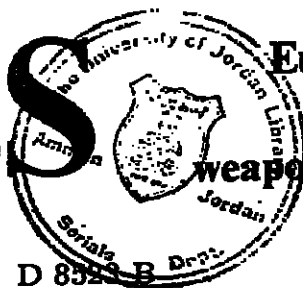


# FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

No. 29,071

Thursday May 12 1983



European defence:  
the nuclear  
weapons trap, Page 18

## NEWS SUMMARY

### GENERAL

#### Botha loses ground to Right

South Africa's National Party Government, headed by Premier P. W. Botha, which is planning modest constitutional changes in its constitution, lost support in four Transvaal by-elections, although it won three of the seats at stake.

It lost the Waterberg seat to its former Cabinet Minister Dr Andries Treurnicht, leader of the new, ultra-Right Conservative Party, which now has 17 MPs, all defectors from the ruling party.

Botha's party held the other two parliamentary seats and one for the provincial legislature, with a reduced share of the votes. Page 3

### U.S. compromise

The U.S. Senate foreign relations committee approved a compromise aid plan for El Salvador, reducing the military help President Ronald Reagan wanted to give. Page 4

### Austrian coalition

The Austrian Socialist and liberal parties announced yesterday that they had agreed to form a coalition to succeed the all-Socialist government of Dr Bruno Kreisky. Page 20

### Dutch Gulf mission

Dutch Transport Minister Mrs Neelie Smit-Kroes and Economic Ministry officials travel to Kuwait on Sunday to discuss a Dutch plan to clear the big oil slick that is endangering Gulf coasts.

### Suicide bid

Thandive Nkomo, 28, daughter of exiled Zimbabwean Opposition leader Joshua Nkomo, tried to kill herself because she was distressed by the detention without trial of her husband, John, said her mother in Harare.

### Perón plans return

Former Argentine President María Estela Perón is planning to return from exile in Madrid, said supporters. Argentine elections have been promised for October.

### Lawyers on strike

Monza, Italy, lawyers' strike against staff shortage in courts has led to further delay in the trial of five company officials for responsibility in the 1976 chemical plant disaster at Seveso.

### Violence at Cannes

About 400 French medical students, demonstrating against education and health-service reforms, clashed violently with police at Cannes, where they charged into the film festival centre, throwing smoke bombs and firecrackers. At Toulouse, students started more than 20 fires.

### China's icy ambition

China is seeking membership of the Antarctic Treaty, and planning to establish a research station on the continent.

### Art records set

Record price for contemporary art at an abstract expressionist painting, a work by an American artist and by a living artist were set when Willem de Kooning's Two Women fetched \$1,210,000 at Christie's, New York.

### Briefly...

U.S. Beirut embassy reopened, 23 days after the explosion that killed more than 60.  
Six-year-long bribery trial of former Japanese Premier Kakuei Tanaka resumed after a three-month break.  
Six amateur divers recovered \$50,000-worth of coins and ingots from 300-year-old wreck off South Africa.

### BUSINESS

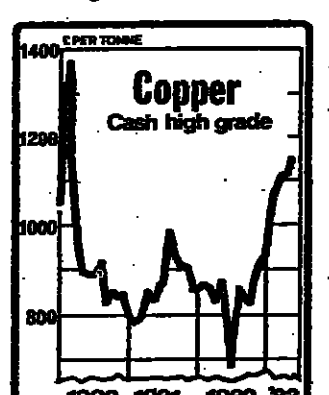
#### Texaco halves N. Sea estimate

TEXACO, the U.S. oil group, has halved its estimate of its reserves in the North Sea Tertiary field, wiping almost \$20m off the recoverable value. Page 6

STERLING rose 35 points to \$156.85, unchanged at DM 3.2875, and eased to FF 115.1 (FF 115.25), SwFr 3.19 (SwFr 3.2), and Y363 (Y364.25). Its Bank of England trade-weighted index slipped from 84 to 83.3. In New York it closed at \$156.96. Page 44

DOLLAR's trade weighting fell from 121.9 to 121.4, dropping to DM 2.438 (DM 2.444), FF 7.34 (FF 7.368), SwFr 2.023 (SwFr 2.025), and Y212 (Y212.6). In New York it closed at DM 2.435; SwFr 2.023; Y230.8; FF 7.325. Page 44

GOLD rose \$0.25 in London to \$444. In Frankfurt it fell \$1.25 to \$443.5. In Zurich it rose \$1 to \$443.5. Page 41



COPPER: London cash price for high-grade, closed \$133.5 up \$1.15 (51.906.1) a tonne, a 38-month peak.

LONDON: FT Industrial Ordinary index fell 4.1 to 672.8. Government securities showed some modest gains. Page 37. FT Share Information Service, Pages 42-43.

WALL STREET: Dow Jones index closed 9.96 down at 1,219.72. Report, Page 37. Full share listings, Page 38-40.

TOKYO: Nikkei Dow index rose 23.59 to 6,981.58. Stock Exchange index eased 0.38 to 6,347.7. Page 37. Leading prices, other exchanges, Page 40.

BRAZILIAN banks launched a campaign to defeat a private Bill before Congress to nationalise banks, including foreign-owned ones. Page 4

SAUDI ARABIA and its Gulf allies opened talks in Riyadh on the next steps towards forming an Arab common market.

GENERAL FOODS of U.S. increased net income in the year ended April 2 by 11.3 per cent, to \$206.5m, with a strong last quarter. Page 20

MGM GRAND HOTELS and 41 other defendants are to pay \$140m to settle claims from the 1980 Las Vegas hotel fire, in which 84 people died. Page 20

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, UK property, construction and shipping group, raised pre-tax profits 21 per cent in the half ended March to £33.8m (\$32.7m). Lex, Page 20; details, Page 24

VICTOR of Japan, audio and video system maker, reported operating profits 18 per cent down for the year ended March at ¥40.2bn (\$173.8m) with French import curbs a factor. Page 22

ITT, the U.S. telecommunications major, reported first-quarter operating earnings 3.5 per cent up at \$124m. Page 20

KLOCKNER-WERKE's appeal against an EEC judgment for exceeding production quotas was rejected by the European Court of Justice. The company may now face paying DM 206.8m (\$84.7m) in fines. Page 2

## Western ministers urge IMF to press free trade

BY DAVID HOUSEGO IN PARIS

Western governments will ask the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to urge both industrialised and developing countries to cut back trade barriers. The decision should substantially reinforce the Fund's role in nursing world economic recovery and easing the debt crisis.

The finance and trade ministers from eight leading industrialised nations meeting in Paris yesterday also pressed for closer co-operation between the IMF and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The ministers themselves agreed to meet more regularly to discuss the interrelated problems of trade, debt, exchange rates, interest rates and protectionism.

No forum has been designated, but meetings of the Group of Ten finance ministers could be enlarged to include trade ministers.

Yesterday's meeting had been preceded by a dinner on Tuesday evening, to which Mr Donald Regan, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, had invited finance and trade ministers from the seven nations taking part in the Williamsburg summit at the end of this month.

They are the U.S., Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan. France declined to attend the dinner but Switzerland and the Netherlands took part instead, as did Mr Jacques de Larosière, head of the IMF, and Mr Ar-

### REFLECTION PLEA

Trade union leaders from Western countries will meet tomorrow ahead of the Williamsburg summit to press their case for co-ordinated reflection. The U.S., meanwhile, outlined its hopes for the summit. Page 4

thur Dunkel, Secretary General of GATT.

The ministers yesterday saw a twin role for the IMF and GATT in helping to roll back protectionist measures. The aim would be to win parallel concessions from both industrialised and developing countries, although it is recognised that the process will be lengthy.

The U.S. in particular believes that sustaining the recovery and enabling developing countries to meet their debt repayments depends on a further opening up of markets.

The intention is that the IMF would use its leverage as a lender to press on developing countries the long-term advantages of opening up their domestic markets while in the

short term ensuring that they were not deprived of essential imports in restructuring their economies.

Examples cited were the IMF's success in persuading closed economies such as India and Pakistan to reduce trade restrictions. The IMF would also press the benefits of direct investment as an alternative source of capital from the west to borrowed funds.

With industrialised countries the Fund's major leverage would be through the regular Group of Ten meetings and through its recently enlarged powers of monitoring the economic policy of individual governments as agreed by last year's Versailles conference.

The role of GATT would be to identify what are often hidden protectionist measures and, through consultations with member governments, to increase the pressure for removing them.

Several governments at yesterday's meeting spoke of the damage to trade of volatile exchange markets. Mr Regan gave little sign that

Continued on Page 20

## Nucorp Energy reports \$471m loss for 1982

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

NUCORP ENERGY, a fast growing U.S. energy services company which has borrowed heavily from international banks including Continental Illinois and Barclays Bank International, has reported a net loss of \$471m in the year ending December 31, 1982.

The loss, which compares with a restated loss of \$43.5m in 1981, is made up of a \$170.8m continuing operations loss and a \$300.6m loss on discontinued operations.

The losses of the company, which filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy code last summer, are much higher than earlier expected.

The company blames its performance on the slump in the U.S. oil service industry as well as declines in the price and volume of oil and gas consumed. There was also a "significant over-supply of oilfield tubular goods and related products."

The company grew very fast during the recent boom in the U.S. oil

services industry and its sales jumped from \$30m in 1979 to \$424m in 1981. Much of this growth was financed by heavy borrowing from international banks, of which the most heavily involved is Continental Illinois, which is understood to be owed about \$170m.

Some nine banks, including Barclays, Citibank, Security Pacific, Royal Bank of Canada and Bank of Montreal, have secured debts of \$300m outstanding with Nucorp.

That accounts for just under half the group's total debts of \$650m.

Mr Barry Galt, the court-appointed trustee of Nucorp Energy, yesterday filed a preliminary report containing his conclusions on Nucorp's future. He has concluded that a reorganisation of the company is "feasible, desirable and preferable to liquidation." He has estimated that the latter course would result in losses of over \$400m.

A key element in Mr Galt's plan for Nucorp is that "virtually all un-

satisfied indebtedness of the company" should be converted into equity stock. The group has three main operating divisions, Nucorp Energy, Maverick Tube Corporation and Del-Tex.

The Galt Report, which is due to be considered by creditors at a meeting in San Diego on May 30, identifies several companies which should be sold off.

The company says the general effects of the Chapter 11 proceedings complicated 1982. Operations and results for the year were also depressed by material provisions for losses to cover doubtful accounts, by write-downs of inventories to the lower of cost or market value.

The company's total revenues fell from \$122.4m in 1981 to \$107m last year.

The problems affecting Nucorp Energy are among the most visible signs of the recession in the U.S. oilfield services industry, which is affecting many companies and their bankers.

## Dumez and Impregilo combine to win Paraná dam contract

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

A EUROPEAN civil engineering consortium led by Dumez of France and the Impregilo group of Italy has been awarded a \$1.6bn contract to build the second largest dam in the world on the Paraná River between Argentina and Paraguay.

The contract involves the civil engineering part of the ambitious \$10bn Yacyretá hydroelectric project being jointly undertaken by Argentina and Paraguay but financed by the former.

The new dam will be the second largest in the world after the giant \$14bn Itaipu dam further up the Paraná River between Brazil and Paraguay.

Dumez confirmed yesterday that it had received a letter of intent from the joint company formed for the hydroelectric project. The French construction company said

it expected to sign the final contract on July 15 and start work on the dam in September. It will take seven years to complete the project.

The contract ends three years of competition between Dumez, one of France's largest construction companies, and the Impregilo group, a consortium of Italian civil engineering companies controlled by Fiat.

A Dumez executive said yesterday that his company and the Italians felt it was fruitless to continue competing against each other and instead decided to pool their respective consortiums together.

Dumez's share is expected to be about 15 per cent while Impregilo's share of the civil engineering contract is currently estimated at about 17 per cent. Dumez, however, is hoping to increase its share.

The other members of the consor-

tium include West German companies and local enterprises from Argentina and Paraguay. As is traditional in such contracts, the local South American content and the European component is distributed on a 50-50 basis.

The World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank have both agreed to fund \$420m of the project with the two institutions lending \$210m each. The project will also depend on export credits from the various countries with companies involved in the huge venture.

The Allis-Chalmers group of the U.S. is expected to win the order for the turbines for the hydroelectric project.

The hydroelectric project will have a capacity of 4700 megawatts with the energy going to Argentina in the initial years.

## Thatcher and Pym stress EEC as poll issue

By Our Political and Economics Staff

IN A STRONG defence last night of Britain's membership of the European Community, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, claimed that several major investments in the country by multinational companies would not have been made if Britain had been outside the EEC.

Mr Pym's speech, and comments made yesterday by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, indicate that the Conservative Government believes that EEC membership could become a major issue in the general election which has been called for June 9.

Mrs Thatcher, in a radio interview, described withdrawal from the EEC - the stated policy of the Labour Opposition - as an "absolute disaster."

Mr Pym cited recent investments in the UK by foreign companies, including Wang Computers' new £38m plant in Scotland and Hewlett-Packard's £26m investment at Bristol. He also noted that the Japanese companies Sony, Takiron and NEC had set up in Britain since the UK joined the Community.

"This kind of investment," Mr Pym said, "would simply not come to Britain if access from here into the rest of Europe involved the hurdle of the Community tariff barriers."

He continued: "If Britain was outside the EEC Community, there could be little doubt that investment of this sort would go to the Continent and the employment implications of that for Britain are in my view wholly unacceptable."

In her interview, however, Mrs Thatcher said that Britain "would go on fighting until we get a fair deal" on the issue of Britain's contributions to the EEC budget. She added that she might not go to the EEC summit in Stuttgart to be held two days before the election, unless there were only final negotiations to be completed.

The Prime Minister's comments suggested that she did not believe that would be the position. She added that if there was not "a fair and equitable deal" there would be one soon afterwards.

Mrs Thatcher also produced a new reason for calling the general election.

Campaign roundup, Page 8

Editorial comment, Page 18

## EEC calls for early budget contributions

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

THE EUROPEAN Commission has sharply reminded EEC governments of the Community's growing cash crisis by issuing an unprecedented appeal to member-states to accelerate some of their monthly payments to the Brussels budget.

They have been asked to bring forward the transfers due in June of the customs duties on agricultural levies collected at their borders. The Commission needs the additional \$600m to meet a cash flow difficulty caused by the surging costs of the EEC's farm policy, which are running at 35 per cent above budget. It is hoped that the extra money will keep the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) going until member-governments and the European Parliament have approved a supplement to the 1983 budget totalling around \$1.87bn.

The demand for early payments was made just before yesterday's adoption by the Commission of a preliminary draft budget for 1984 which will spend all but \$641m of the total estimated revenues for next year. The Community has never before operated with such a small margin of extra cash, which might be draining away by mid-1981 if agricultural spending continues to soar at its present rate.

The limits on EEC spending are fixed by the total volume of customs duties and agricultural levies, which are fairly static, and 7 per cent of retail sales of a common basket of goods and services - the so-called 1 per cent value-added tax (VAT).

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, acknowledged yesterday that the 28.2bn European Currency Units (\$25bn) available to the EEC budget in 1984 might be insufficient.

"Either there will then be a very serious situation facing spending policies or member-states might agree to pay special contributions (to keep the budget solvent)," he said yesterday. That was why it was crucial for member-governments to reach quick agreement on the Commission's proposals, launched last week, for raising the ceiling on EEC budget revenues, added the Commissioner.

Of special importance to the UK is the fact that the Commission has built into its total 25.32bn ECU (\$24.14bn) spending proposals enough money to cover any agreed rebate on Britain's estimated payments to Brussels this year of \$1.87bn.

But in yet another genuflection to demands from the European Parlia-

ment, the Commission intends that the rebate should come out of specially increased spending in the UK under the Community's social, regional, energy and transport policies.

In the past, UK rebates have had a special budget category of their own and have been only notionally allied to real policies. The proposed spending total for next year is some 11.5 per cent higher than this year's budget before any additions to meet the demands of agriculture.

Some \$15.75bn has been allocated to the farm sector next year - a relatively low 34 per cent of total spending. But there must be serious doubts as to whether that will be enough, since this year's farm spending total, after the supplementary budget, will be in the region of \$15.13bn.

Moreover, the Commission is insisting that the 1984 increases in farm prices must be funded out of the total budgeted for the CAP next year. That suggests that if farmers are to have a price rise, the Commission will be forced to act on its undertaking, repeated by Mr Tugendhat yesterday, to take any necessary measures to hold down farm spending.

The Commission has sought to underline that its priorities lie outside agriculture by scheduling a 14.8 per cent increase in social fund payments, 19.1 in regional fund, 27.4 per cent in energy (partly in anticipation of a coal policy) and a 135 per cent increase in transport. It is doubtful if these proposals will be endorsed by EEC budget ministers in July when they prepare their version of the budget, which will then be considered by the European Parliament in the autumn.

The European Commission said yesterday that it would be taking a positive view of France's application for a multi-million dollar EEC loan to help cover its trade deficit.

France is believed to be asking for more than \$3bn to be raised by the Community on its behalf. The Community's monetary committee, made up of officials from EEC Treasury and Central Banks, met in Paris yesterday to prepare an opinion for member governments.

That will be discussed by EEC finance ministers at a meeting in Brussels on Monday when they are required to give unanimous agreement to a formal Commission proposal that the loan should be raised subject to conditions agreed with the French Government.

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

## Hitler diaries: shock waves reverberate around West Germany

BY JONATHAN CARR IN BONN

THE MYSTERY over the origin of the so-called "Hitler diaries" is starting to clear a little. But the shock waves from the affair have daily become stronger in the West German publishing world and beyond.

According to public statements this week by some of the key actors in the drama, the trail begins in Hamburg, where the deeply embarrassed Stern magazine has its headquarters. It goes to Stuttgart in the south and then appears to vanish in East Germany.

According to Gruner und Jahr, publishers of Stern, DM 5m (\$2.35m) was put up to acquire the diaries in what seemed at the time to be a journalistic coup. At the time money was passed on to Herr Card Heidemann—at the time Stern's top reporter, but now

summarily dismissed and under investigation for fraud by the state prosecutor's office.

Federal West German authorities announced last Friday that the "diaries"—of which there are around 60 volumes—were forged.

White Gruner und Jahr was diametrically revealing the financial side of the affair, Herr Henri Nannen, founder of Stern, was lifting the curtain on where the "diaries" came from. He said that initially, Herr Heidemann had declined to reveal the source on the grounds that lives might be put at risk. Eventually, following the revelation of the forgery, Herr Heidemann had given further details.

The diaries had come from a Stuttgart collector and dealer of Nazi memorabilia, who claimed to have received them from

his brother, allegedly a general in the East German army. Stern had contacted the address where the "general" was supposed to live, and felt the man probably did not exist.

Simultaneously, at a Hamburg news conference, Herr Heidemann was denying any wrongdoing and insisting that he had been hoaxed. He had paid the money for "the diaries" in good faith and it had been up to Stern to examine them further to ensure they were genuine. Stern promptly rejected this argument, although it had asked several experts at home and abroad to authenticate the documents before deciding to publish.

Not unexpectedly, Stern's competitors have been gleeful at their rival's discomfiture.

Publication of weekly, illustrated magazines in West Germany is big business. Stern has a paid weekly circulation of around 1.8m copies and reaches more than 8m readers—a happy hunting ground for advertisers.

Stern's arch-rival, Spiegel, also Hamburg-based, has a weekly circulation of around 1m and a readership of close to 5m.

Axel Springer's Hoer Zu (a radio and television weekly which carries a lot of feature articles, too) has a sale of almost 4m. Had the Hitler "diaries" been genuine, they would seem to have guaranteed Stern still bigger sales for many months to come.

Cynics are suggesting that the background to the forgery, now promised by Stern, may also be a story about the corruption, about the smell of

weekly's journalists are deeply depressed by the affair. Two chief editors have resigned and other staff may follow suit.

All that said, the extent and intensity of the criticism of Stern throughout West Germany still comes as something of a surprise. There are probably two main reasons—of which the character of Stern itself. The weekly prides itself not simply on the high quality of its photography and its "human interest" stories, but on its espousal of causes in the "public good" and its explosion of political cant.

"Everything correctly, everything on time, everything first-hand," Herr Nannen has said. "Whether it's about heart transplants, or new star discoveries, about the smell of corruption drifting through

Bonn...

All well and good, but clearly a lot of Stern's rivals have been irritated by what they feel to be the weekly's rather too "finger-wagging," and now they have a golden chance to let off steam.

The second, and probably more important reason for the criticism, lies in the subject matter over which Stern has come to grief.

For many years there was precious little public discussion in West Germany of Hitler and the Nazi era. History for many people seemed to begin with the war's end—when the Republic was born. That attitude has been changing above all in this year, the 50th anniversary of Hitler's coming to power as Chancellor of the

Reich. Dozens of books and television series, and hundreds of newspaper articles, are marking the occasion and probing how it came to happen.

The subject thus is not taboo any more—but it remains, to say the least, delicate, one to be approached with a lot of seriousness (and a strong German character trait) or not at all.

That feeling is clearly not confined to the older generation. A Hamburg schoolboy, evidently in his teens, told an inquiring reporter this week: "I'm sorry. I thought they would take more care to check the diaries were genuine. After all, foreigners will see the magazine on their bookshelves and think—after all the Germans can't do without Hitler."

## Ranks close on Italian Left for June vote

By Rupert Cornwell in Rome

THE ITALIAN Communist leader, Sig Enrico Berlinguer, last night committed his party to a left-wing "democratic alternative" government for the country, and demanded an immediate halt to plans to instal medium-range nuclear missiles at Comiso in Sicily.

These were the two principal points to emerge at the presentation of the platform on which the West's largest Communist party will fight the general election on June 28-29.

Shortly before he spoke, a significant closing of ranks among the Italian Left took place, as the Communist Party (PCI) and the far Left (PDUP) Democratic Party of Proletarian Unity) announced that they would present joint lists of candidates.

At the last election in June 1978, the PDUP won 1.4 per cent of the vote, compared with the 30.5 per cent by the Communists. The decision undoubtedly reflects the anxiety of not only the PCI, but also the PDUP, that only a united front will prevent a further loss of support this time, after a 3 per cent fall in 1978.

Further clarification of the intentions of the Italian political Left will come this week-end when the unpredictable Radical Party decides whether to contest the election. Four years ago the Radicals won 3.4 per cent, and emerged as an "undoubtedly victor" in an otherwise stalemate vote.

The party presently is divided, but if it does not stand,



Sig Berlinguer... unveiled Communist platform.

then the bulk of its potential support would probably go to the Socialists and the Communists.

As has now become the custom, the economic proposals of the Italian Communists would be eminently respectable for any centrist party elsewhere in Western Europe.

The PCI is advocating: increased public-sector capital investment, above all to activate Italy's long-delayed energy programme; steps to encourage labour mobility as the restructuring of industry proceeds; a turning of industry towards working hours and measures to help the creation of small and medium-sized companies, the backbone of the national economy.

## FitzGerald hits high pay rises

By Brendan Keenan in Dublin

THE IRISH Government begins pay negotiations with public sector unions next week, with its hopes of bringing Irish wage increases down to average European levels balanced on a knife-edge.

In a parliamentary debate yesterday the Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, condemned what he called the shortsighted policy of seeking wage increases greater than the rise in output.

The Swedes are trying hard to dispel any suspicion of softness, that they are not doing all they can to force submarine intruders to the surface. At present, however, the results of the military.

Suspicious will linger, however, until the dangerous game of hide and seek in the Swedish fjords produces some tangible results for the military.

The growing Soviet Atlantic and Baltic fleets also need assured access to the home Baltic ports through the narrow straits separating Sweden from Denmark. With the longest coast of any Baltic nation, Sweden poses an obvious threat to the Russian flank in the Baltic, and it is perhaps not surprising that its defences are being tested.

The most significant development is the new intensity of foreign submarine operations and the fact that operations are

continued after detection. "It could be the slow working of Soviet bureaucracy, or it could be the wish to show that they have hegemony in the Baltic, whatever the Swedes do," said one Foreign Ministry official. "But they are taking a hell of a risk of running around or getting hit."

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FINANCIAL TIMES, published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. U.S. subscription rates \$420.00 per annum. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing centres.

## Jaruzelski stands by deputy premier

By Christopher Bobinski in Warsaw

GENERAL WOJCIECH Jaruzelski's Polish Communist Party leadership has decided on a low-key response to recent signs of Soviet concern that its policies are swinging out of line with Soviet bloc orthodoxy.

Last week, the Soviet Union weekly New Times attacked Poland's Politburo newspaper, formerly edited by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, now a Deputy Premier. The Soviet Journal accused Politburo of propagating anti-socialist ideas.

However, on Monday, at a meeting of the Polish Council of Ministers Gen. Jaruzelski had Mr Rakowski report on the political situation in the country, a point underlined in an official communiqué and a signal that the General was standing by the former Politburo editor.

In a bid to avoid a full-scale ideological clash, this week's issue of Politburo has simply reprinted extensive quotes from the New Times attack whose tone it calls "unprecedented." Politburo points out that in six cases out of 12, New Times misquoted the Polish paper and one alleged "quote" from Politburo was nowhere to be found.

However, a party politburo meeting on Tuesday failed to specify a date for the next central committee plenum officially scheduled for mid-May and devoted to ideology. Hardliners here had feared that at this plenum Gen. Jaruzelski intended to bring Mr Rakowski into the politburo and make him responsible for the mass media, a key post.

The New Times attack on Politburo has effectively blocked this Poland's Roman Catholic Prime Minister, Cardinal Józef Glemp, is due to travel to Rome on Monday for talks with Pope John Paul II on his planned visit to Poland next month, according to Vatican sources, AP reports from Rome.

## Soviet vote for President set

By Our East European Correspondent

THE SOVIET Parliament will choose the country's new president in June, the editor of Pravda, the Communist party newspaper said in an interview with a Japanese daily published yesterday.

The drawing by Mr Leonid Brezhnev died six months ago. Mr Yuri Andropov, who holds the substantive top job of party general secretary, is thought to have had to cement his dominance in the Kremlin by taking himself the largely protocol position of President or to hand it to someone clearly of lesser standing.

It is also a sign of the nation's growing obsession with foreign submarines, which is undiminished in spite of this week's decision to call off the latest dramatic hunt around Sundsvall, on Sweden's northern Baltic coast. Even as this search was abandoned, the military has confirmed a new submarine sightings in the sensitive Stockholm archipelago.

How should the armed forces, with their limited resources, protect 1,777 miles of coastline? Advertisements placed in national newspapers earlier this year by the Navy appealed seriously to the nation's leisure sailors to report anything suspicious observed while sailing between the myriad islands that line the

## Klöckner loses fight over EEC steel controls

BY PAUL CHEESERIGHT IN BRUSSELS

KLÖCKNER-WERKE, the West German steel producer, has lost its long-running battle with the European Commission over the working of the EEC's steel crisis regime and may now face the payment of DM 200.6m (\$84.7m) in fines.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg yesterday handed down seven judgments rejecting pleas by Klöckner and upholding the Commission's administration of steel production quotas and price controls.

Klöckner has consistently opposed the way the Commission has

implemented its powers under Article 56 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty to impose quotas and price controls. It has been regularly fined for over-production, but has never paid.

Instead it has taken the Commission to the court charging, broadly, that the production quotas given to it have not been equitably set.

European Commission legal experts and the Ministry of Justice in Bonn are now understood to be examining how to implement the fines, which relate to over-production in 1981-82.

Klöckner officials yesterday were unavailable for comment.

The judgments were seen in Brussels as legally sustaining the Davignon Plan for the restructuring of the steel industry through modernisation and reducing excess capacity.

The use of the production quotas, and price controls is, in effect, an umbrella to protect the steel groups while they make the necessary changes. EEC ministers meet later this month to decide on the continuation of the regime for a further 2½ years from the end of next month.

## Petrofina against chemical deal

BY OUR BRUSSELS STAFF

PETROFINA, the Belgian petrochemicals group, yesterday came out in sharp opposition to developing ideas of an agreement between the major European chemicals groups to cut back capacity.

It is the second major producer this week to contest the value of a multilateral effort to restructure the industry. On Tuesday, BASF said a multilateral solution was not feasible.

Executives from the major chemical companies gather in Brussels at the end of the month

to discuss schemes for rationalisation of the industry. The meeting will be attended by Viscount Etienne Davignon, the European Commissioner in charge of industry.

Mr Adolphe Demaree de Lespaul, chairman of Petrofina, said in Brussels that if there was any general agreement on prices, Petrofina would simply undercut them.

If Petrofina itself was forced to join in any multilateral organisation, it would take legal action, he said. Such action would presumably be based on EEC rules.

Although discussions in the chemical industry have concentrated solely on the reduction of capacity, the experience of the steel industry has shown that if changes are made jointly then a framework of production quotas and price controls is needed.

The focus of the Brussels discussions will be a report prepared by executives from Mobil, Exxon and Rhone-Poulenc, which apparently details the extent of over-production and makes a case for widespread closures.

## Genscher appeal on EEC summit

By Jonathan Carr in Bonn

WEST GERMANY has urgently appealed for new efforts to break the logjam of European Community problems building up in advance of next month's EEC summit conference in Stuttgart.

The Bonn Foreign Minister, Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, warned yesterday that West Germany's current chairman of the Community Council — could not bring an EEC breakthrough alone.

Unless all member states contributed to compromises in five key sectors, there was a danger the Com-

munity would find itself at a stalemate.

Herr Genscher's unusual personal appeal, issued in a statement to the ambassadors of the nine other EEC countries here, reflects growing concern at the prospect of a Stuttgart failure.

In the economic and financial sectors the Foreign Minister urged progress on steps to fight youth unemployment, to counter trade protectionism, to speed the EEC entry negotiations of Spain and Portugal and to solve budget problems (in-

cluding the issue of rebates for Britain).

But Herr Genscher said that important as these topics were, it was also urgent that other member states approved the comment on European political union which Bonn and Rome had proposed.

He specifically repeated that the European Parliament should be strengthened and that decision-making should be "eased" in the EEC Council (a reference to more decisions by majority vote). Britain, for one, is sceptical on both topics.

## France set to sign Saudi arms deal

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

FRANCE is expected to sign a major new arms deal with Saudi Arabia during the week-long French visit to the Saudi Defence Minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz.

The Saudi Defence Minister arrived in Paris yesterday afternoon and was due to have talks with President Francois Mitterrand and later with M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister.

Prince Sultan is also scheduled to

have talks in Paris with Mr Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. Defence Secretary. Mr Weinberger is expected to use the occasion to see whether he can persuade Saudi Arabia to try to influence Syria to accept the latest U.S. Lebanon peace plan.

The new arms agreement between France and Saudi Arabia is known as "Sawari 2". It involves French service and training for the Saudi navy and the supply of

French electronics equipment. This agreement is in fact the second part of the original Fr 14bn (\$1.5bn) "Sawari" deal between the two countries signed in 1980.

The original deal was one of France's largest ever arms packages to a developing country. It involved the modernisation of the Saudi navy including the supply of four frigates and 24 helicopters, all equipped with missiles.

## Nato could cut N-arms by third, says Rogers

By Bridget Bloom, Defence Correspondent

NATO COULD reduce its nuclear weapon stockpile by as much as a third if, at the same time, it strengthened its conventional forces, General Bernard Rogers, NATO's commander in Europe, said in an interview at his Belgian headquarters.

Nato currently has about 6,000 nuclear warheads on short range so-called battlefield weapons. These could be reduced by 2,000, General Rogers said, but only if such conventional weapons, new as the Patriot air defence system, were deployed in Europe.

Nato military commanders and officials in the High Level Group are conducting intensive studies into the alliance's requirements for short-range weapons. But so far they are only publicly pledged to withdraw 572 warheads, equivalent to the number of new U.S. cruise and Pershing missiles to be deployed in Europe from the end of this year.

There have been so far only unofficial suggestions that the alliance is considering withdrawing as many as 2,000 nuclear warheads.

Gen Rogers was speaking at the end of last week's Shaping the Future conference, during which NATO stressed that if Nato agreed to spend more on conventional weapons, the alliance could raise the threshold at which nuclear weapons would have to be used in any future war in Europe.

Gen Rogers noted that among his current worries were U.S. Congressional demands that there should be no further increases in the number of U.S. troops in Europe.

He estimated that the deployment of the new nuclear missiles and other programmes of modernisation would need an extra 36,000 U.S. troops in Europe over the next five years from the current level of some 320,000. Feature, Page 22

## Lubbers threat over missiles

By Our Amsterdam Correspondent

THE DUTCH Prime Minister, Mr Ruud Lubbers, said in an interview published yesterday that he would resign if Parliament did not support his centre-right cabinet as the deployment of the U.S. cruise missiles.

However, he did not expect that the cabinet would have to adopt a definitive policy this year as the Geneva talks on East-West arms reduction were proceeding only slowly.

Mr Lubbers, a prominent Christian Democrat, has been on the subject in September, drawing up a comprehensive white paper on the Dutch media to be a very conservative document that favours keeping television much as it is today—dominated by small companies of limited means whose primary output is discussion programmes and documentaries.

The Liberals, however, believe that there is greater scope for popular programming, and in a black paper programme, and in a programme that stations and output be decided by viewers on the basis of free elections. Elections would almost

certainly favour the growth of such stations as "Veronica," which put out "Dynasty" and popular English-language films, and "Tros," which has given a new word to the language: "Vergruipening," meaning to trivialisate.

The Liberals, however, are stalling to their guns and are to hold a special party congress on the subject in September.

Last month, during the run-up to the Government's spring budget, Mr Ed Nijpels, the Liberal leader, threatened to withdraw from the coalition if large-scale cuts in the 1983 budget. The cuts were in fact made.

Conversely, he later insisted that pensioners should be exempted from a 2 per cent cut in social welfare benefits that was part and parcel of those cuts. He failed and now the ground seems to have shifted to the future of broadcasting.

The growing Soviet Atlantic and Baltic fleets also need assured access to the home Baltic ports through the narrow straits separating Sweden from Denmark. With the longest coast of any Baltic nation, Sweden poses an obvious threat to the Russian flank in the Baltic, and it is perhaps not surprising that its defences are being tested.

The most significant development is the new intensity of foreign submarine operations and the fact that operations are

continued after detection. "It could be the slow working of Soviet bureaucracy, or it could be the wish to show that they have hegemony in the Baltic, whatever the Swedes do," said one Foreign Ministry official. "But they are taking a hell of a risk of running around or getting hit."

The Swedes are trying hard to dispel any suspicion of softness, that they are not doing all they can to force submarine intruders to the surface. At present, however, the results of the military.

Suspicious will linger, however, until the dangerous game of hide and seek in the Swedish fjords produces some tangible results for the military.

## Why the Swedes are obsessed with hunting foreign submarines

BY KEVIN DONE, NORDIC CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM



OWN GOAL: The submarine which went aground.

Government's report into submarine incursions last autumn in the Stockholm Archipelago, when a mini-submarine was thought to have penetrated to the Stockholm harbour.

Tracks found on the seabed and other tell-tale signs have led the Swedish authorities to believe that as many as six foreign submarines were operating in the Stockholm Archipelago on that occasion. "Three of these were manned midget submarines, with a bottom crawling capacity of a hitherto unknown character," said the report.

Despite only circumstantial evidence, the blame for the incursions was pinned firmly on the Russians. An accusation that Sweden could not make lightly given its policy of studied neutrality. More than 40 Swedish territorial waters were recorded last year alone.

Last week Moscow rejected the Swedish Government's latest strong protest Note about last year's incursions, on the grounds that it was unfounded. It was an unfriendly act of anti-Soviet propaganda, Mr Boris Pankin, the Russian ambassador in Stockholm, informed Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister.

Mr Palme said there was no reason for "panic or hysteria," but admitted that the submarine intrusions went "to the heart of our neutrality policy."

Sweden's security policy is founded on the tenet of non-adherence to alliances in peace-

time, aiming at neutrality in case of war," but such even-handedness is being severely tested.

In private Swedish officials clearly see the increased submarine activity as part of a Soviet military operation involving reconnaissance, planning and the testing of new equipment. "In planning different war scenarios, there must be a scheme for conquering part of the Norwegian coast. They would probably have to come through Finland and Sweden by land, but also by sea," admits one senior official.

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## OVERSEAS NEWS

## S. Africa's ruling party suffers by-election blows

By J. D. F. JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S ruling National Party has emerged from Tuesday's round of by-elections severely, but not disastrously, battered by the new and ultra-right-wing Conservative Party.

It is widely believed here that the result is bound to dictate caution to Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, as he proceeds with his proposals for constitutional reform under which the Coloured and Indian minorities would be readmitted to a junior role in the republic's white-controlled political system.

Of the four by-elections, all in the Transvaal—three for the national Parliament and one for the provincial legislature—the National Party lost three, though with a considerably reduced proportion of votes cast.

However, Dr Andries Treurnicht—leader of the Conservative Party and former National Party Cabinet Minister—decisively won the constituency of Waterburg.

This is the first seat the party has lost to the ultra-right-wing since it came to power in 1948.

But the Conservative Party, which will now have 17 MPs, all of whom defected from the Government benches in February 1983 in protest against the Prime Minister's plans for "healthy power-sharing," did well in all four contests.

Two black men have died in custody in 10 days at a police station in Eastern Transvaal Province, police headquarters confirmed yesterday.

AP reports from Pretoria. The two deaths came a month after officers from the same Directorate shot and killed Mr Sam Mkhize, leader of the Drifonts community during a community meeting.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said investigations had been launched into the latest deaths.

The most important was the other extreme—conservative farming constituency of Soutpansburg, where the sitting MP, Mr Fanie Botha, Minister of Agriculture, held on to his seat with a majority of 621 against the challenge of a Conservative Party leader, Mr Tim Langley.

Loss of Soutpansburg would have been disastrous for the Government, not least because it was Mr Fanie Botha, a leading "reformist" colleague of the Prime Minister, who provoked the whole mini-election by rashly challenging Dr Treurnicht in Parliament.

The National Party fared better in the third parliamentary contest, in the wealthy

Pretoria suburb of Waterkloof, where the bigger challenge seemed to come from the official opposition Progressive Federal Party.

The PFP had hoped to achieve its first Pretoria seat but in the event the Nationalist candidate slightly increased his majority, despite a strong Conservative Party showing.

Another reason why this round of by-elections has attracted such intense interest here is that it offered a comparison between the two ultra-right parties, the CP and the older Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP).

The result was clear. In Waterburg, the HNP leader, Mr Jaap Marais, was firmly beaten into third place, as also happened to his colleague in the Carletonville provincial poll.

The Government will view this with mixed feeling because it strengthens the likelihood of an obvious merger or alliance between the right-wingers which has thus far been prevented by personal rivalries.

But there is plenty of evidence—confirmed again in Carletonville this week—that in a large number of constituencies the National Party could be defeated by a single right-wing opponent. The Conservative Party has now justified its argument that it should be the leading member in such an alliance.

## Labor man named by Hawke in envoy case

By Colin Chapman in Canberra

MR BOB HAWKE, Australia's Prime Minister, confirmed yesterday that Mr David Combe, the former national secretary of the Labor Party, appeared to have been compromised by a relationship with a Soviet diplomat which could give rise to serious security concerns.

The diplomat, Mr Valeri Ivanov, was expelled just over a fortnight ago.

Mr Hawke said the link had made it "no longer appropriate for government Ministers to deal with (Mr Combe)".

The affair has provided Mr Hawke with his first major crisis since assuming office after the March 5 election.

● Australia's balance of payments showed a further improvement in April, largely as a result of a further large increase in the amount of foreign capital flowing into the country since the election.

Figures released yesterday showed an overall surplus of A\$986m (\$615m). There was a trade deficit of A\$5m and a current account deficit of A\$529m, but net apparent capital inflow was A\$1.5bn.

Exports fell by A\$182m or 11 per cent to A\$1.5bn. Imports were down by 16 per cent, or A\$291m to A\$1.545bn.

## India urged to tax rich farmers

By K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

THE WORLD BANK has urged India to tax its rich farmers and curb imbalances in infrastructure investment to encourage more rapid economic growth and development.

The recommendations are made in the bank's annual confidential report on the Indian economy, prepared for the Aid India Consortium meeting in Paris on June 14 and 15.

It says the rich farmers should be taxed, despite political and administrative difficulties, to raise additional resources for development. At present, income from agriculture is exempt from tax, and the Government would find it

difficult to accept the recommendation because of the powerful farmers' lobby in the country.

On the imbalances in infrastructure investment, the bank says these could have "serious consequences for the future growth and efficiency of the economy." For a number of years infrastructure constraints like low electricity generation, transport bottlenecks and finance have held up economic development.

The bank says India will have to depend increasingly on its own domestic savings to protect the existing level of investment because of the harsh external

environment and the likelihood that concessional aid will decline. Foreign savings will thus be an unreliable source in future years.

At the same time, the bank places renewed emphasis on increasing concessional assistance with its "critical role" to support India's efforts to adjust towards "a more open economy," improve its credit-worthiness for non-concessional borrowing, and strengthen the prospects for more rapid growth.

The bank report compliments the Government for efficient management of the economy in many sectors, notably in holding

down the inflation rate to 2.2 per cent in 1982.

The bank says India's balance of payments position should remain "manageable" as long as emphasis continues to be placed on export growth, avoidance of unnecessary imports through improved capacity utilisation, and efficient allocation of resources.

India could also make greater use of borrowing capacity in world capital markets but, for a poor country, a larger inflow of concessional assistance can "directly enhance India's growth prospects without further squeezing low levels of consumption there."

## China seeks Antarctic Treaty membership

By MARK BAKER IN PEKING

CHINA is seeking membership of the Antarctic Treaty and plans to establish a permanent research station on the continent.

The move would consolidate China's expanding interest in Antarctic research and give it a say alongside the U.S., the Soviet Union and other treaty nations on the future status of the area.

Australia is expected to back China's initial recognition as a "contracting party" to the treaty, which would enable it to be formally recognised by the 14 treaty nations and expand its research.

But China is believed to be determined to achieve full status as a signatory. This would require it to make "substantial" scientific research, such as building a station or mounting independent expeditions.

China formed a national committee for Antarctic research in 1981 and since early 1980 has sent 19 scientists on various missions with the support of Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and other nations.

Mr Wu Heng, the committee's director, said yesterday that the standing committee of China's National People's Congress had

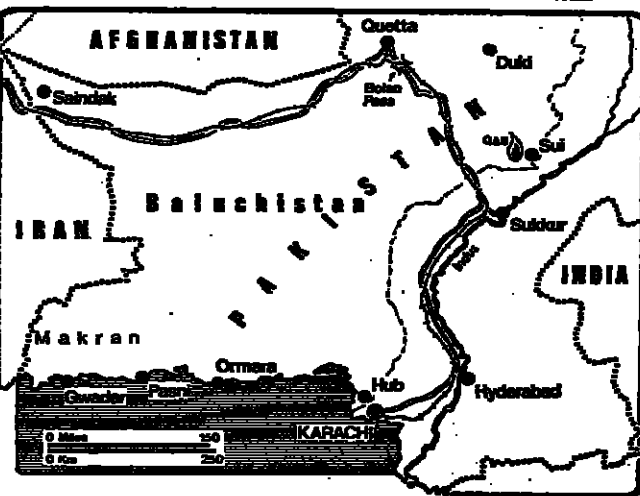
decided to seek membership of the treaty to "help Chinese scientists further their co-operation with other countries in polar research and the earth sciences."

China planned to set up its own research station in Antarctica "when conditions permit." It had plans to establish a polar research institute, train more specialist scientists and increase the number of scientists visiting Antarctica.

The Chinese are believed to have recently investigated the possibility of refuelling a ship as an icebreaker.

China's principal interest in Antarctica was spelled out in the official party newspaper, People's Daily, earlier this week: "According to preliminary exploration, the Antarctica is rich in petroleum, gas, rare metals, whales and shrimps. At the same time, it is a natural scientific laboratory."

Concerns have been expressed by some Third World countries that the treaty nations are a club acting to preserve the increasingly apparent natural resources of the area for their own use.



## Hope blooms in the Baluchistan desert

By DAVID DODWELL, RECENTLY IN QUETTA

A TEAM of U.S. surveyors on assignment in Baluchistan once reported that its gnarled terrain was the nearest thing on Earth to Mars. The Pakistan Government wants to turn the province into the orchard of the Middle East, and announced a \$1.5bn plan at the weekend with just this purpose in mind.

Baluchistan is Pakistan's largest, poorest and most abysmally neglected province, and the plan is as much aimed at coaxing the independently-minded Baluch tribes into the federal fold as at overcoming poverty.

The heavily armed guerrillas of the Baluch People's Liberation Front are still capable of mounting a major uprising against Pakistani rule from their base camps in the Baluchistan deserts and in Soviet-controlled Afghanistan.

The plan relegates into second place the search for mineral wealth which has dominated development efforts in Baluchistan for the past 35 years. Oil, gas, copper, gold and uranium are among the minerals known to be present. The new agricultural development plan would bring visible benefits to the 4.3m subsistence farmers and nomadic herders of the area, which accounts for 45 per cent of Pakistan's total land area.

Dr Mahbub ul Haq, Pakistan's Minister of Planning and Development, said in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan, at the weekend: "The plan will be costly—it will be like opening up a new wild west. But Baluchistan has tremendous agricultural potential which has never been exploited because for 35 years we have only looked for minerals."

Through a programme of valley development along five river valleys—comparable to the Tennessee River Valley Scheme in the U.S.—the Government plans to tap vast proven reservoirs of underground water to turn the Baluchistan desert green. About 150 acres is cultivable, of which only 3m acres is currently irrigated.

Pakistan itself has only a fraction of the funds needed to develop the area. For that reason, the international aid consortium to Pakistan, which met recently in Paris and committed \$1.4bn to the country for the next year, has agreed to meet again in December to consider support for a special Baluchistan Integrated Development Plan.

Dr Mahbub will be seeking foreign aid and commercial bank funding for at least two-thirds of the \$1.5bn allotted for development of the province over the five-year plan.

The extent of Baluchistan's backwardness is extreme even when compared with impoverished Pakistan. Average per capita income is thought to be about \$180 a year.

Admitting the neglect of past

## Afghan talks planned

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sahbaz Khan, is to visit the five permanent United Nations Security Council members to discuss an Afghan peace settlement, a Government spokesman said yesterday.

He said he would visit China on May 15 and 16, but gave no dates for visits to the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have held two rounds of indirect talks in Geneva about a settlement of the Afghan problem and a withdrawal of Soviet troops. Sr Diego Cordova, the UN special envoy is acting as intermediary.

President Zia-ul-Haq said in a television interview earlier this week that the Soviet Union was in difficulties in Afghanistan and might be prepared to withdraw its troops.

governments, President Zia ul Haq has since 1978 emphasised the development of Baluchistan as the highest priority. Allocations from the martial law regime's federal development budget have been hoisted from Rs 280m (£14.5m) in 1978 to Rs 650m this year. A special programme for 1983 amounting to a further Rs 860m means the Government has put in Rs 1.5bn this year.

Its achievements so far are the completion of the metalled road from Karachi to Quetta—a road planned almost 20 years ago—the linking of Quetta to the Sui gas national grid, and the completion of the Hub dam near Karachi. Electricity has also been laid on to 250 villages.

A main feature of the future development plan will be dam building and the sinking of deep wells. The Pafeder canal from the Indus is to be widened, and dams at Mirani, Khushid Khan and Badinzi are to be built.

Electricity for deep well pumps will come from new thermal stations across the province. Capacity is to be raised from the present 146 Mw to 400 Mw. Among these stations will be a 70-100 Mw coal fired plant at Duki using local coal. A further 1,000 villages are expected to get electricity.

While the hunt for minerals has been relegated, it has not been abandoned. Biggest hopes are pegged to the Saindak area. Vast reserves of copper, along with gold, iron ore and minerals like molybdenum and chromium, have been known about for 20 years.

But the sheer remoteness of the site, coupled with security worries—Saindak is near the point where Pakistan borders with Afghanistan and Iran—have stymied development so far.

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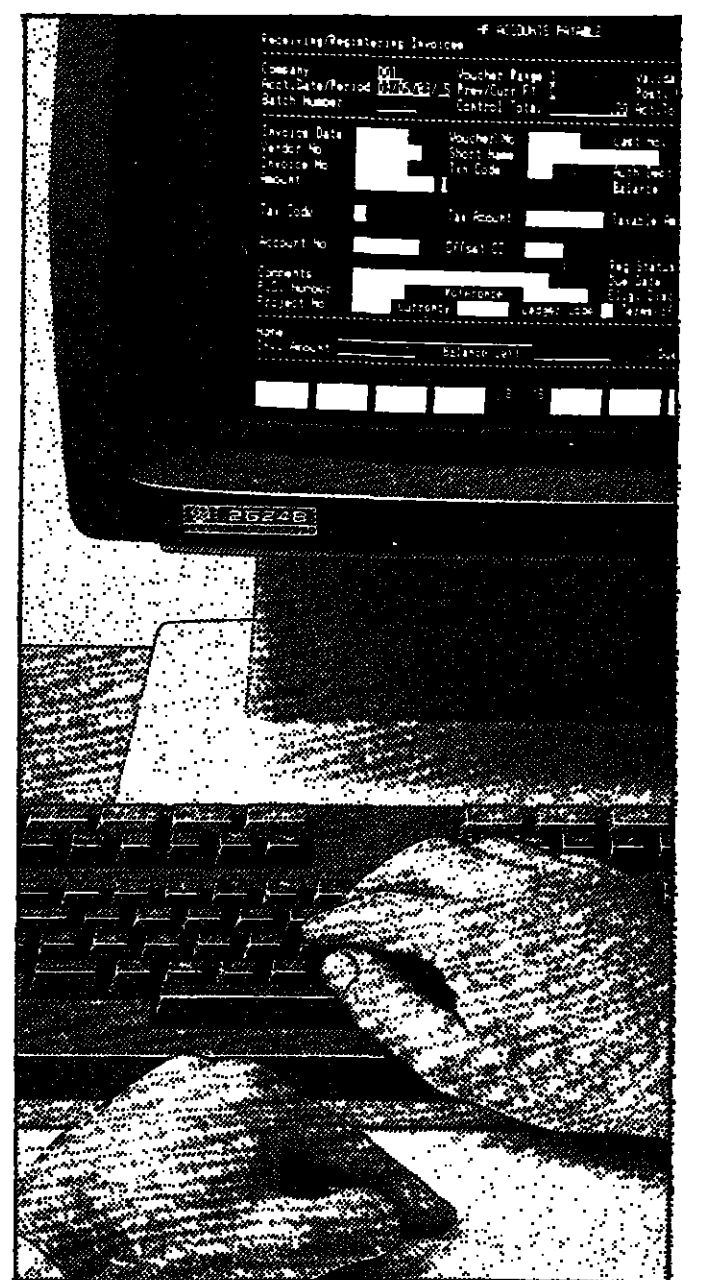
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## AMERICAN NEWS

## Setback for Brazilian loan package

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

A COMPROMISE plan to encourage U.S. regional banks and others to increase their loan exposure to Brazil to help it cope with serious short-term liquidity pressures has failed to win the backing of all the major banks involved in the negotiations.

The main stumbling block is a plan to increase commercial banks' interbank lines to Brazil from their current level of about \$6bn to \$7.5bn by the end of June and to \$9.4bn by the end of the year.

European banks have agreed to increase their lines on a pro rata basis but several of the smaller U.S. regional banks are

apparently reluctant to agree to the request which is important if Brazil is to weather short-term liquidity pressures.

A meeting in New York on Monday of the 12 bank liaison committee on Brazil considered a compromise plan which would have allowed banks to increase their trade financing commitment to Brazil while not increasing their interbank lines by the amount initially required.

These two items are being dealt with separately, as projects three and four, of the four-part Brazilian rescue package which was initially signed in February.

The first two parts involving \$4.4bn of new money and a

\$4.6bn rescheduling of 1983 debt have already been agreed.

However, some of the banks represented on the liaison committee, which is supervising the Brazilian debt rescheduling, are believed to have refused to allow the interbank line question to be merged into the separate trade financing issue. They still feel that both issues should be dealt with separately and the U.S. regional banks should not be allowed to subscribe relatively less than other banks to the restoration of interbank lines.

Andrew Whitley in Rio de Janeiro adds: Brazilian banks yesterday launched a last-ditch

effort to head off the anticipated presentation before the Federal Congress in Brasilia of a private Bill to nationalise all foreign and locally owned banks.

On the crest of yesterday's scheduled debate there were signs that the Bill's sponsor was coming under strong pressure. However, the proposals already appear to have had an adverse impact on the delicate state of Brazil's international bank-financed rescue package.

Yesterday's *Gazeta Mercantil* newspaper said Brazilian bank branches abroad have suffered fresh withdrawals of deposits and credit lines in response to the Bill.

## Pilots may take stake in airline

By Paul Taylor in New York

EASTERN AIRLINES' pilots could end up owning more than a 5 per cent stake in the financially troubled U.S. airline after reaching tentative agreement on a major package of concessions which the company claims could save it about \$100m (\$64m) over two years.

Eastern, the fourth largest U.S. carrier, announced preliminary agreement on the package of concessions last Friday. Under the scheme, Eastern said its 4,200 pilots will receive "certain securities" in return for deferring wage increases.

Details of the agreement are due to be set out in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing on Friday. However, leaders of the pilots' association said yesterday that under the terms of the agreement they would receive a "substantial" equity stake in the company through the issue of convertible debt.

Because the agreement has yet to be filed with the SEC, the airline and pilots were unable yesterday to comment on the size of the equity stake.

However, it is understood the airline would issue new subordinated debt securities which could be converted into an equity stake of between 5 and 10 per cent.

## Senators back Salvador aid plan

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate Foreign Relations Committee has approved a compromise U.S. aid plan for El Salvador, sharply reducing the military assistance sought by President Ronald Reagan for the embattled U.S.-backed Government but granting its full request for economic aid.

The unanimous vote on Tuesday night appeared to mark a step forward for Mr Reagan's attempt to forge a bipartisan policy on Central America.

The compromise, put forward by Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a Kansas Republican, provides for \$76m (\$49m) in military aid this year, against the \$136m requested by Mr Reagan, with an understanding that more funds might be

approved later. Military aid in fiscal 1984, which begins on October 1, would be also limited to \$76m, against a Reagan request of \$96m.

The Administration called the outcome a substantial improvement on earlier plans discussed by the committee, but reserved the right to fight to increase the amount on the Senate floor.

The figure approved by the committee was considered by congressional officials to be enough to enable the El Salvador Government to maintain its present level of military activity against guerrillas. The compromise plan granted Mr Reagan's full request for \$140m in economic aid in fiscal

1983 and \$120m next year. It stipulated that \$20m of the extra military funds should be spent on training Salvadoran forces in the U.S., so as to reduce the need for American trainers on the ground in El Salvador.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee was due to vote later yesterday on another compromise package for El Salvador, which was expected to put a series of conditions on additional aid. The conditions seemed likely to include moves by the El Salvador Government to open "good faith" negotiations with the guerrillas without preconditions, and tighter congressional control over future aid.

## OECD unions press for reflation

BY JOHN LLOYD, LABOUR EDITOR

TRADE UNION leaders from the OECD countries will tomorrow meet President Reagan in advance of the seven-nation economic summit in Williamsburg, Virginia, to press their case for co-ordinated reflation in Western economies.

The OECD's Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) will tell Mr Reagan, the summit host, that primary responsibility for the economic crisis lies with the failure of full employment as a

basic aim of all countries' policies.

TUAC will present a paper, adopted at its plenary session in Paris last month, which argues that "co-ordinated action is the safest and least costly way to recovery. Making positive use of the interdependence of the OECD economies, as well as that of the industrialised democracies and the developing world, will maximise the benefits for all."

The document says that "full employment policies mean that governments should cease to seek a recovery through deflation, lower wages, and a dismantling of the social safety net. Real structural change which benefits the economy requires more than relying upon market forces only."

The unions' position, though strongly pressed, is unlikely to have much impact upon summit discussions.

## Guidelines for joint ventures outlined

By Paul Taylor in New York

MR WILLIAM BAXTER, the U.S. Justice Department's anti-trust chief, has outlined, for the first time, specific guidelines for U.S. companies wishing to establish joint research ventures without running the risk of breaking the law.

Mr Baxter's statement, delivered at a meeting organised by the National Association of Manufacturers, is seen as an attempt to clarify the rules for, as well as encouraging, joint research and development efforts by U.S. companies.

Until now, U.S. businessmen have complained that U.S. anti-trust laws discouraged joint venture research and development work and put them at a competitive disadvantage with companies in Japan and elsewhere.

Mr Baxter did not refer specifically to these concerns. According to a report in the New York Times, he said that in general terms such joint ventures between U.S. companies would be permissible where the companies together account for less than half of an industry market and where their collaboration would still leave room for at least four to six competing ventures in the field.

## Iran to pay 1979 debts

FIRST NATIONAL Bank of Chicago said yesterday it has settled its outstanding debts with Iran which date from Autumn 1979 following the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Teheran.

Under the agreement, the latest in a series of U.S. banks' settlements, First Chicago will receive \$13m (\$8.4m) which represents all the bank's outstanding loans and interest.

Iran is also to pay an additional amount of more than \$700,000 (\$452,000) interest due on syndicated loans.

## China refuses to negotiate on EEC textiles agreement

BY ANTHONY MORETON, TEXTILES CORRESPONDENT

HOPES THAT the EEC and China might be able to reach agreement on future levels of trade in textiles and clothes have been rudely shattered following the refusal of the Chinese to begin negotiations.

A Community delegation returned empty-handed to Brussels from Peking yesterday after four days of non-talks in the Chinese capital.

"The Chinese gave no indication of their demands and just remained silent," one EEC official stated.

The disappointing meeting, which surprised diplomats, follows the breakdown of talks in an atmosphere of bitter recrimination between China and the U.S. earlier this year.

The EEC is hoping to renew a four-year pact limiting imports from China. The present agreement runs out at the end of the year, but there are now doubts whether this timescale can be met.

China's vast textile and clothing industries are expanding rapidly and causing great concern in the West because of the very low wages—and therefore, Mr David Briggs, managing director of William Root, told the Confederation of British Wool Textiles in London yesterday that "China is giving us great cause for concern. It is intent

on building an industry that will be a strong exporter to the West.

"China has recently entered into licensing agreements with the International Wool Secretariat and it is clear that this is to enhance its export potential."

At the same time Western industry is heavily dependent on some Chinese fibres, such as cashmere, angora and silk, and wants continued access to these.

The present agreement on cashmere, for instance, limits Chinese exports into the whole Community to 500 tonnes a year. Despite this, Britain alone imported 1,600 tonnes last year and the EEC as a whole took 3,000 tonnes.

The failure of the Peking talks was all the more surprising to the EEC because it had been given to understand last month by the Foreign Trade Minister, Chen Muhua, that China wanted to increase its trade. The EEC had expected China to seek bigger quotas.

The Community was successful last year in obtaining a similar growth of trade with Far Eastern low cost suppliers under the Multifibre Arrangement, a move which caused much bitterness in the area. Hong Kong only last week accused the EEC of forcing a more restrictive "agreements on the countries in the area."

## European Space Agency leases satellite

Financial Times Reporter

THE International Maritime Satellite Organisation (Inmarsat) has signed a \$64.5m contract with the European Space Agency to lease the 40-voice channel capacity of Marces B2, a maritime communications satellite. It will be the ninth contract in the Inmarsat system, which provides the capacity for telephone, telex, data and facsimile services for the shipping and offshore industries around the world.

The London-based 35-member country organisation negotiated the contract for the satellite as a replacement for Marces B, which was lost following a launch failure last September. A similar satellite, Marces A, is already in operation over the Atlantic. The new satellite is expected to be launched in mid-1984 and will be positioned over the Pacific Ocean.

## California call to stem wine imports

WASHINGTON — A senator from California on Tuesday asked the Reagan Administration to stop imports of subsidised foreign wines, particularly from EEC countries.

Senator Pete Wilson, a Republican, writing to Mr Richard L. Armitage, U.S. secretary of agriculture, and a fellow Californian, suggested that American growers may ask for "countervailing duties" to increase the price of imported wine in the U.S.

## Compressor order

The Cooper Rolls organisation has won two contracts from the oil and gas industry totalling nearly \$12m to supply five gas compression systems for gas production and separation duty in Thailand, and World Trade Staff writes.

## Gulf cement plant

A West German-Japanese consortium has won a \$117m (\$84.5m) order from Ras al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates, for a white cement making plant, consortium member company, Hitachi Zosen, said, according to Reuters from Tokyo.

The other members of the consortium are Humboldt Wedag and Nishimura Corporation.

## Dutch asked to discuss oil slick clean-up

By Walter Ellis in Amsterdam

THE DUTCH Minister for Transport and Water Management is to travel to Kuwait Sunday at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Ministry to discuss a Dutch plan to clean up the massive oil slick now endangering large areas of the Arabian Gulf coast.

The Minister, Mr Neelke Smit-Kroes, will be accompanied by senior officials of the Dutch Economics Ministry as well as representatives of the consortium of companies which hopes to carry out the work.

If the consortium is given the go-ahead by the Kuwaitis, the contract could be worth many millions of dollars. One recent estimate of the cost of the clean-up given by the Dutch group of companies was \$8bn.

## Patronat chief denies France is protectionist

TOKYO — France is among the least protectionist countries in the world despite Japanese claims that it has some of the toughest restrictions on imports, a leading French industrialist said here yesterday.

M Yvon Gattaz, president of the Conseil National du Patronat Français, the French businessmen's organisation, said France could not afford to be protectionist because it relies heavily on exports.

"Our exports per Frenchman are 30 per cent greater than Japan's exports per Japanese," he said.

Mr Gattaz, who heads the high-technology company, Societe Radial, reminded reporters at a news conference at Japan's National Press Club of the FF 130m (\$11.3m) trade deficit France racked up with Japan in 1982.

Recent Japanese pledges of export restraint are not enough to correct this, Mr Gattaz said. "In any case, they should only be temporary," he said, and called instead for further opening of the Japanese market and increased technical co-operation.

"The French industrialist is looking Japan for a week. He has met with Ministers for International Trade and Industry, Sadanori Yamaguchi, and other government and industry officials."

Mr Gattaz said he had emphasised the advantages of joint ventures between French and Japanese companies, in the talks pointing to the tie-up between the French electronics giant Thomson and JVC as an example of Franco-Japanese co-operation.

JVC said in its annual earnings report, released in Tokyo the same day, Mr Gattaz made his remarks, that it recorded an overall 2 per cent decrease in profits in fiscal 1982. It blamed the drop partially on the so-called "Poulters measure" by France last year to restrict Japanese cassette recorders (VCR) imports.

Mr Gattaz said he told them the French Government, and the Socialist policies of the present Government, "The Patronat is against protectionism," he said. "We support free trade."

But I also told the Japanese that "France is not just a country of culture, art, fashion, champagne and perfume," he said. "On the contrary, France has many strengths in technology and know-how well known in foreign countries."

He pointed to biotechnology, nuclear reactors, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, water treatment and weapons as fields ripe for the combination of "French innovation and the Japanese capacity to make highly competitive products."

## Washington wonders, but only Ronnie knows

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

IS RONNIE running? With 1984 fast approaching, and both Democrats and Republicans growing increasingly restive, a lot of people inside and outside Washington would like a clear answer.

Just about the only senior political figure who believes that President Ronald Reagan has yet to be elected, believe it or not, is Mr Tip O'Neill, the plain-speaking Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr O'Neill says that Mr Reagan will announce that he is standing down, probably late this summer, after discussions with his wife, Nancy, and his closest advisers from California. The kitchen cabinet consensus, he believes, will be that Mr Reagan does not need four more tough years in the White House.

Virtually everyone else, from Mr James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, to pollsters, political analysts and pundits in general, believe not only that Mr Reagan will run but that he has already started to do so. "All of us who work with him on a day-to-day basis are firmly convinced that he will run," said Mr Baker this week.

Or, more bluntly from Mr Michael Deaver, Mr Baker's deputy and a long-time Reagan intimate. "He'll run."

Mr Baker himself has not yet made the final decision. The official line from the White House is that he will wait until around the Labour Day holiday when the onset of autumn to make an official announcement.

But if Mr Reagan has not yet crossed the Rubicon, he really has at least one foot planted firmly in the water, and almost every day brings fresh signals that he is preparing himself for the final plunge.

His close friend, Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, has been installed as the general chairman of the Republican Party, a position in which he will be well placed to mastermind the next Republican Presidential campaign. Mr Laxalt, Mr Reagan's "eyes and ears" in the Senate—says that he was only persuaded to take the job because he was convinced that Mr Reagan was running.

An unofficial group of advisers and officials in Washington has already started laying the basis for a Reagan re-election campaign, including visiting to the sites of some of next year's key primaries with "White House blessing, although Mr Reagan is still reluctant to authorise the establishment of a formal re-election committee.

The President has revealed that if he seeks a second term he would like the Vice-President George Bush to be his running mate again, and he has recently sharpened the tone of his attacks on leading Democratic hopefuls, the former Vice-President Walter Mondale. He is constantly dropping hints that the "Reagan revolution" cannot be completed in a single four-year term.

Most graphically, he recently told the Conservative Political Action Conference that his "clean-up crew" would need more than another two years to deal with the mess left by others over half a century.

In a day's wing through Texas, Arizona, California and Ohio, landing earlier this week, Mr Reagan gave every appearance of a man on the campaign trail. He wooed Hispanic voters in San Antonio and touched base with traditional right-wing supporters like the National Rifle Association in Phoenix. In Ohio, he returned to the themes of his successful 1980 campaign, blasting big government and the misguided "utopian" social programme of the past.

Some of his advisers are now pressing him to come clean as quickly as possible so as to put an end to uncertainty and allow them to start raising funds and organise the campaign. Mr Reagan, however, seems to want to wait until the last possible moment.

He has every reason for delay. If he opts out too soon, he risks a long period as "lame duck" President with sharply reduced influence. If he announces that he is running, on the other hand, he fears that all his subsequent actions will be interpreted as political moves designed to ensure re-election, and that he will stand even less chance of achieving the more bipartisan economic, defence and foreign policies that he is now seeking.

It is, of course, also possible that he really has not finally made up his mind.

The greatest urgency is felt by his right-wing supporters, who fear that the Republican nomination will go to the "moderate" Mr Bush by default, if Mr Reagan holds on too long and then "walks away" from the election. It is hard, however, to see who else might win the nomination apart from Mr Bush.

The darling of the conservative, Representative Jack Kemp of New York, is a long shot outside, as is Senator Charles Percy of Illinois, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. The name of Senator Robert Dole, chairman of the Finance Committee, has also been fairly frequently mentioned, but he is widely believed to have been largely responsible for the "walks away" defeat by Jimmy Carter in 1976, when he was Mr Ford's running mate.

That leaves Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee, the Senate majority leader, who is both popular and known to have Presidential aspirations. But he would have little time to mount a serious campaign and is in any case believed to be thinking more in terms of 1988 than 1984.

The likelihood that Mr Bush would perform poorly against Mr Mondale or the fast-rising former astronaut Senator John Glenn of Ohio, could be another important reason for Mr Reagan to run again himself.



Inauguration: Nancy looks on as the President takes the oath.

Against Mr Reagan is the "senility factor." He is increasingly showing his age—he would be 78 on his birthday—and his health is getting worse. He is increasingly prone to ramble and to get answers to questions embarrassingly wrong in the absence of his three-by-five-inch briefing cards or a teleprompter.

But with the economy recovering, most Democrats admit that he would be hard to beat, much harder than Mr Bush. Even Mr O'Neill concedes that a contest with Mr Reagan would be "tough." While Mr Reagan is still keeping his options open, Mr O'Neill's confident prediction that he will drop out of the race may turn out to be no more than wishful thinking.

Interests on certain parts of the economy, such as banking. But for the moment local British officials believe radical changes in the Uruguayan economy are unlikely.

The Uruguayan Government is hoping for an export-led recovery largely through agricultural goods, and it is here that British companies could manoeuvre a firmer foothold.

A UK consultant, as yet unnamed, is likely to win a major contract over the next few months for the reorganisation of Uruguay's meat-processing industry.

The sector was the hub of UK economic interests in Uruguay before World War II, but has since been gradually taken over by local business. But many of the meat processors have reacted slowly to the fluctuations in world demand for meat because of poor organisation, lack of adequate market research, and the obsolescent state of many of their plants.

The consultants will have to establish whether the industry should be scrapped or whether there is the possibility of an important expansion through a major re-equipment and modernisation. If the latter turns out to be the case Britain could have a role to play," said one UK trade official.

He was thinking not just of increased exports of Uruguayan corned beef—last year out of a total of 114 tons exported, 62 went to the UK—but in possible future contracts for UK engineering firms and capital goods exporters. Of Uruguay's 18-odd existing processing operations, only one can meet current EEC health standards.

The Oslow visit is to be followed later this year by a Uruguayan trade mission to London led by Sr Jorge Sierra, the director general of External Commerce.

"I think we have tended to react slowly to the potential offered by the British market."

## Uruguay treads a careful path in its trade with Britain and Argentina

BY JIMMY BURNS, RECENTLY IN MONTEVIDEO

JUST A few hours after a leading British diplomat in Buenos Aires had received the latest in a series of death threats against Britons resident in Argentina, Mr Cranley Oslow, the UK Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was leaving Montevideo for a series of "frank and open" talks with Government ministers and businessmen.

This contrast in UK officialdom earlier this month epitomises Britain's mixed fortunes in the River Plate region in the wake of the Falklands war.

In Argentina, the continuing mutual trade embargo and the ban on remittances of profits abroad by British companies has frozen any prospect of increased UK investment in the short-to-medium term.

Argentina and British officials share the view that even if the two countries eventually agree to resume negotiations on the future of the islands, the damage to trade relations between the two countries might be irreparable.

In Uruguay, the Government's neutral stance both during and after the crisis has meant that British interests have remained unaffected, and there is cautious optimism that trade and investment will grow.

In his talks with Uruguayan officials, Mr Oslow is understood to have made progress towards the eventual signature of an investment protection treaty "designed to attract British companies to the area."

Uruguay already has generous foreign investment code under which British companies such as Glaxo, ICI, Belsa, and Shell already operating in the country can remit profits freely, sell assets and be entitled to certain tax incentives. The treaty, which could cover aspects such as compensation in the event of nationalisation, is seen by British officials as an additional but necessary "safety valve" in a politically volatile region.

"We need to protect ourselves as best we can against the kind of arbitrary measures which have been taken in Argentina," said one UK official.

Although traditionally quieter than its neighbour, Uruguay is likely to become more hectic with the approach of the first democratic elections in more than a decade scheduled for November, 1984. One major party, the Colorado, has already declared publicly it would like to curb what it sees as the excessive hold by foreign

interests on certain parts of the economy, such as banking. But for the moment local British officials believe radical changes in the Uruguayan economy are unlikely.

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"I think we have tended to react slowly to the potential offered by the British market."



Mr Cranley Oslow: "frank and open" talks in Montevideo.

I want to give our trade relations with the UK a good push," he said in a recent interview.

Uruguay's market potential should be exaggerated according to UK and local trade officials. Uruguay, on account of its small size, will never be able to provide an adequate substitute for Argentina even if it does make up for a part of the loss. Uruguay's population is 3m, while Argentina's is 25m.

As it is, the country's economy is in recession although predictions of an upturn in the second half of this year have prompted optimism that the UK could soon re-establish itself as an important supplier of machinery and transport equipment.

But there is no avoiding the fact that Uruguay's economy remains highly dependent on Argentina. Montevideo has to move carefully in its relations with the UK for fear of provoking an economically damaging Argentine reaction. Uruguay's tourism industry is particularly vulnerable given that Argentine governments have been known

in the past to ban their subjects from crossing the border when relations have got tense between neighbours.

Political considerations lay behind Uruguay's decision not to exploit the UK-Argentine mutual trade embargo during the Falklands war. This is a different story to what occurred in Brazil and Paraguay where local businessmen boosted their books by helping both Argentina and Britain breach the sanctions.

A leading Uruguayan Government official recalled being approached by some private Argentine cereal exporters who wanted him to issue a certificate of origin for products on their way to Britain. "We took 90 days to say no. By that time Brazil had already taken up the offer."

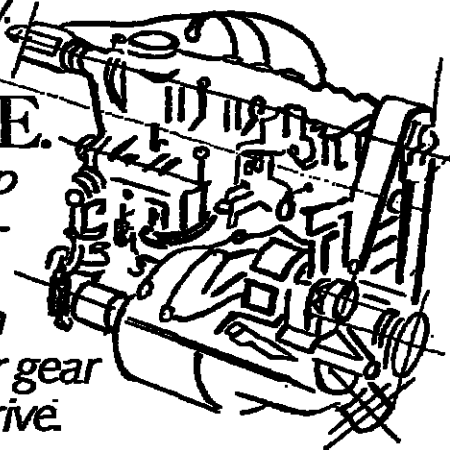
It seems Uruguay will continue to be torn between trade opportunities and political expediency as long as the bitter aftermath of the Falklands war persists on the other side of the River Plate.



Meet the Nova. Vauxhall's new little car. A car designed to do a lot, a little better.  
Its imaginative design has achieved a greater sense of space in a quieter interior. And a new generation of engines offer more power, more punch and more economy.

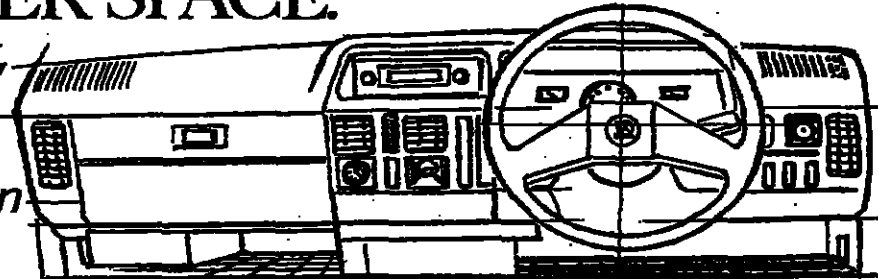
### BETTER TO DRIVE.

Even in third gear, the Nova will zip from 15mph to 65mph and back again without the slightest hesitation from the engine. An achievement made possible by the design concept of Low End Torque (LET). With fewer gear changes, the Nova's easier and punchier to drive.



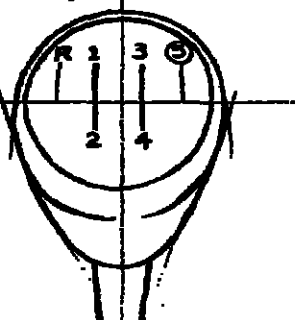
### BETTER SPACE.

Within modest inches, the Nova is deceptively large. Its wide doors open wider than its major competitors. Likewise, it offers the driver better headroom, better legroom and better hiproom.

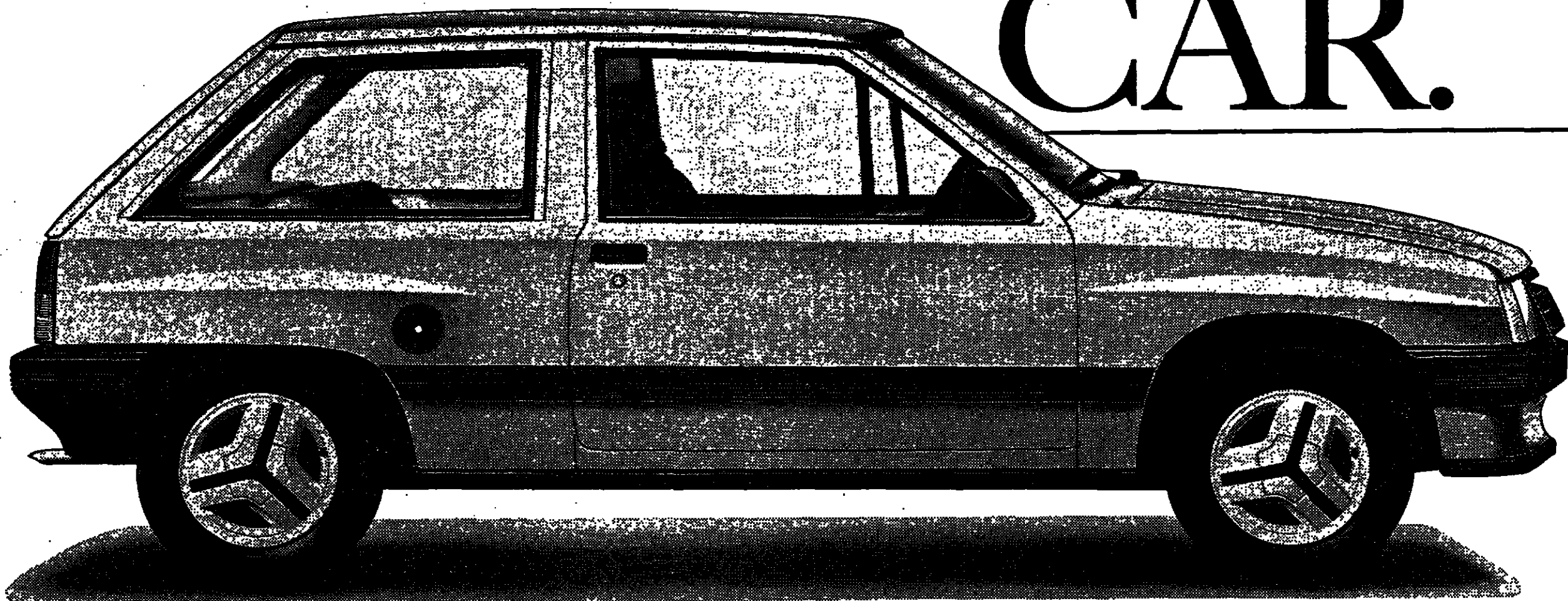


### BETTER ECONOMY.

With the aid of better aerodynamics, the Nova's 1.0 and 1.2 litre LET engines deliver 57.6mpg at 56mph. And 60.1mpg with the 5-speed gearbox, available as an extra cost option.

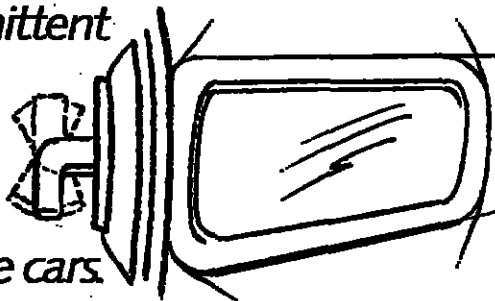


# THE NEW VAUXHALL NOVA. THE LITTLE BETTER CAR.



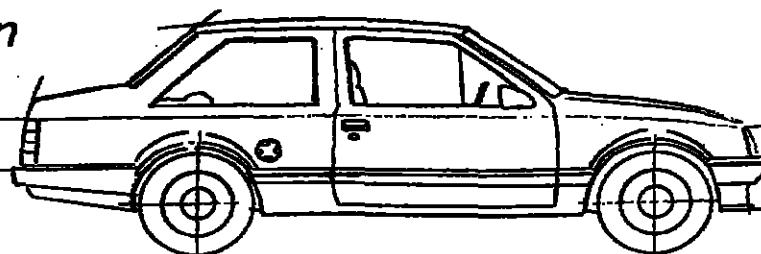
### BETTER EQUIPMENT.

In striking contrast to other small cars, the Nova features a fully integrated dashboard. Every model has power brakes, a laminated windscreen and halogen headlamps. There's an intermittent rear wash wipe on hatchbacks. And on L models, there's a push button radio and a drivers door mirror that adjusts from inside the car. All touches of luxury traditionally found only on more expensive cars.



### BETTER CHOICE.

The Nova is not one car but two. The saloon offers an enormous boot of 15.2 cu.ft. which is even bigger than you'll find on a lot of much larger family saloons.



### FROM £3,496.

Until now a modest price meant a basic car. Nova marks the turning point. We offer all of its refinement in 4 models, from just £3,496 to £4,273. The Nova is waiting for you to test drive at your friendly Vauxhall-Opel dealer.



BETTER. BY DESIGN.





## UK NEWS

# April borrowing requirement jumps to £1.2bn

BY JEREMY STONE

THE CENTRAL Government borrowing requirement (CGBR) for April has turned out considerably higher than most estimates, at £1.2bn. In April 1982 the corresponding figure was £872m.

The CGBR figures had been awaited with some anxiety since last month's total for public sector borrowing showed that spending departments had gone on an end-of-year spree, giving rise to fears that spending in 1983-84 might be starting off at higher levels, which would be inconsistent with the budget spending projections.

This concern was intensified by Tuesday's money supply figures, which showed sterling M3 - the broad measure of money - to be growing at an annualised rate of 20 per cent.

However, the CGBR figures were regarded by analysts as something less than frightening.

The 9 per cent growth in actual department spending is thought to be in part accounted for by the time

taken to process end of year spending decisions taken in March, while the £568m rise in departmental balance has been taken to suggest either that spending may have started to abate or that revenue is starting to rise.

It was pointed out in the City of London yesterday that the figures were "indicative of what governments do before elections, namely spend."

This is held to be a cautious reaction by civil servants in spending departments, trying to push through a backlog of minor projects before the end of term.

Nevertheless, the largest discrepancy between market estimates of about £1bn, and the outturn, may well be due to the continued high level of local authority borrowing from the National Loans Fund.

The councils borrowed £400m last month, compared with £33m in April last year when their borrowings were being funded to a greater extent on the open market.

## REAPPRAISAL WIPES £2BN FROM NORTH SEA FIELD

## Texaco halves Tartan estimates

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

TEXACO, the major U.S. oil group, has halved its estimate of commercial reserves in and around the North Sea Tartan field, wiping almost £2bn from the value of oil expected to be recovered.

Latest estimates given to the Energy Department suggest that just 60m barrels will be recovered from the Tartan field and a further 40m to 50m barrels will eventually be taken from around the nearby Sall prospect. The company had originally

expected more than 200m barrels to be extracted from the area, 125 miles north-east of Aberdeen.

Estimates have been gradually scaled down as Texaco has gained production information from the Tartan development. The company has also been evaluating new seismic data of the area.

Texaco has already invested an estimated £400m on production facilities in the Tartan field where

output is now running at about 20,000 barrels a day. The company said that while the rate of return would be less than expected, it would be "adequate" given the employment of the most advanced production techniques.

Industry reports that Texaco is also anxious to start development of the Sall reservoir using a production system linked to Tartan. It is possible that Sall could be on stream in 1985.

● Britoil, the former exploration and production arm of British National Oil Corporation, intends to join the offshore industry in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. Sir Archie Lamb, executive director of Britoil, told the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in London yesterday that the newly-privatised company was bidding for Norwegian exploration licences under the eighth round of concessions this summer.

## Bank cool on debt 'lifeboat' idea

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE BANK of England yesterday appeared to reject the idea of an international debt "lifeboat" which has been mooted recently by a number of senior bankers.

Mr Kit McMahon, deputy governor of the bank, said at the annual luncheon of foreign bankers that he was "unimpressed by the idea of a fully funded on policy whereby the authorities would move into the centre of the network of international bank lending and build a new structure of debt." He called instead for the "evolution" of solutions to major debt problems.

In an address at a Financial

Times-sponsored lunch at the Mansion House, Mr McMahon also made the following points:

● Collaborative efforts between central and commercial banks have been justified in order to avoid problems in the interbank market.

● Banks should continue to maintain their interbank lines to debtor country banks as "a crucial part of the burden sharing which has contributed to the stabilisation of the situation in the last six months."

● Economic adjustment in debtor countries will take time, and even countries following firm interna-

tional Monetary Fund programmes will require some further financing.

● If countries begin adopting protectionist measures to restrict trade, financial burdens for a number of debtors "may become insupportable."

Mr McMahon said the size of international debt difficulties which emerged in the past year created "a potentially dangerous situation" last year. He said there was a risk of a crisis of confidence in the international banking system.

While the situation had clearly stabilised in recent months "there

is no doubt that we are in difficult waters and are bound to remain so for some time to come. Sound economic recovery is not yet firmly assured, though the signs are better than they were even three months ago."

Mr McMahon praised the efforts of banks to rebuild their capital bases at a time when the quality of many banks' assets had fallen as a result of the deterioration in economic conditions. It was not the case that the interest margins now being earned by banks on rescheduled loans was excessive.

the purpose of the reorganisation into separate accountable businesses."

## NEGOTIATIONS FOR CHANGE

Sir Peter continues by referring to the changing railway:

"We have broken through to agreement on fundamental changes in the way we run the railway. There is a whole package of change in hand. One man operation of the electric services between Bedford/St Pancras and Moorgate; freight trains with modern braking systems moving to driver only operation; flexible rosters replacing the rigid eight hour day; and agreement to a common entry grade of trainman, combining the guard and assistant driver role in the promotion line to driver; to provide at last a career structure for train crews."

## VALUE FOR MONEY

Sir Peter concludes:

"I am sure that as I end my second term as Chairman, there is the beginning of a new clarity in our relationships with our banker/shareholder/customer - the Government. These have been years of radical reappraisal and the changing railway is emerging..."

"When all is said, this country's railways are second to none in giving value for money."

Now, with the new scope for improvements that we have won in 1982,

we can surely build a better railway on these strengths; and however demanding the objectives for the future railway, I am more confident than ever that British Rail can deliver."

Copies of the Report are available from HMSO.

### In his commentary on the 1982 Report Sir Peter Parker says:

"1982 will prove a turning point in modernising the rail business. It was a hard year for British Rail, unnecessarily hard on our customers."

"British Rail has come out of 1982 stronger than it went in. We controlled our financial position to stay well within our external financing limit for 1982/83, the paramount financial target by which we are judged.... There is a momentum of change and change is the best security for the future of rail."

"The underlying trend of railway performance is healthy.... labour productivity and train loadings rising; track and signalling, administration and operating unit costs falling."

## PERFORMANCE

"The true measure of our performance in the embattled year of 1982 is that, without the strikes, we would have doubled last year's operating surplus and, after interest, broken even in spite of the slump. As it was, the strikes lost us £170m and the Group result was a loss, after interest, of £174m."

"We got through the year whilst increasing our net long term borrowing by only £20m: we funded the vast majority of our capital expenditure of £168m from within the business."

"To hold our markets, our passenger fares were held steady for 13 months and the increase when it came in January 1983 was the lowest for ten years...."

"We are still running the same size network, but since mid-1981 we have cut our costs by £250m. We have fewer locomotives, fewer coaches, fewer wagons, fewer marshalling yards and fewer people - 27,000 off the total payroll in two years."

"Railway working expenses were cut by £80m in 1982. And we have now a clear cut strategy for change that should continue to improve our performance still further."

Sir Peter then discusses investment; the Serpell Review of Railway Finances; the organisation of the railway into five businesses; progress on privatisation, British Rail Engineering Ltd and customer relations.

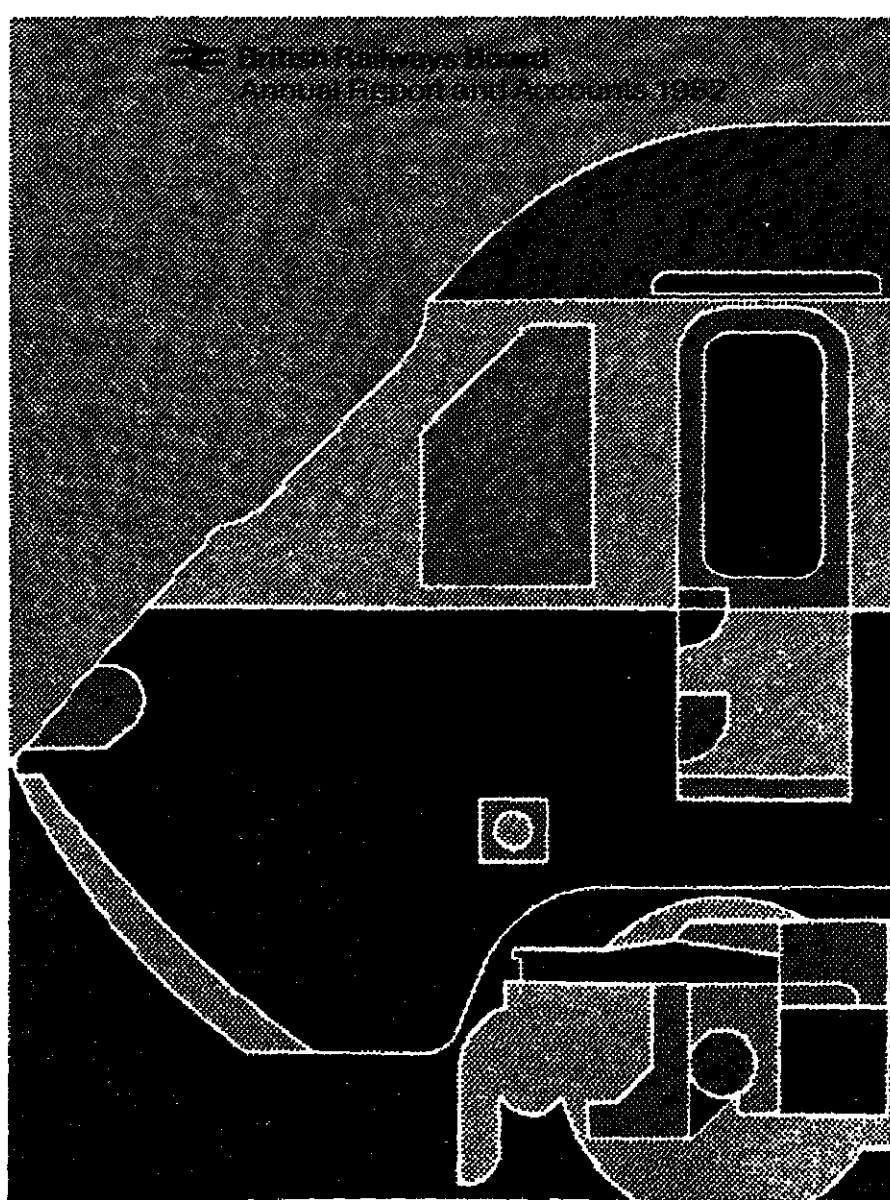
## THE CUSTOMER

A special section in the Report reflects the urgency with which British Rail is tackling customer relations. Sir Peter points out that:

"The restructuring in 1981/82 of the railway business into sectors based on the business markets we serve - Freight, Parcels, InterCity, London and South East and Provincial Services - has been welcomed by our customers, and by the Serpell Review...."

"If there is one dominant pressure among the many pressures upon us, surely it must be our move closer to the customer. That is

## BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 1982



This is the age of the train ➡

## Bermuda treaty is new threat to BA in anti-trust case

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE words in the Anglo-U.S. Bermuda Two civil aviation treaty may frustrate the UK's efforts to stop the Americans going ahead with a grand jury investigation into alleged violations of U.S. anti-trust law by British Airways (BA) and British Caledonian.

More talks between the two governments to resolve the problems raised by the grand jury hearing and the \$1.7bn damages claim for alleged conspiracy and anti-trust law violation, brought in the U.S. court by Laker Airways' liquidator, are expected to take place later this month.

The UK has intimated that if, as is thought highly probable, the talks break down, it will consider invoking the arbitration procedure provided for by Bermuda Two.

The UK contends that the fixing of air fares, which is at the heart of the Laker litigation on both sides of the Atlantic, is governed by Bermuda Two, and that the U.S. is in breach of the treaty in invoking its anti-trust Sherman Act against BA and British Caledonian.

The U.S. asserts that Bermuda Two does not enter into the case, which is purely a matter for U.S. domestic law.

Even if the U.S. agreed to arbitration, which is by no means certain, it might still be the UK nothing. Article 17(7) of the treaty, dealing with settlement of disputes, states: "Each contracting party shall, consistent with its national law, give full effect to any decision or award of the arbitral tribunal...."

The U.S. might decide it would not be "consistent with its national law" - that is, the Sherman Act - to give effect to any ruling in the UK's favour.

Some indication of American feeling about the Sherman Act may be gleaned from Judge Harold Greene's recent decision in the U.S. district court in Washington, when he refused to transfer the liquidator's case to England.

He said it did not involve an obscure, technical law, in the enforcement of which the American courts could be said to have no significant interest.

He explained: "What is in jeopardy is the enforcement of the Sherman Act with respect to a market - travel between the United States and Europe - in which this nation has the highest interest."

"The Sherman Act, as has often been observed, is our charter of economic liberty, comparable to the importance of the Bill of Rights with respect to personal freedom, and there is thus the highest kind of public interest in preventing the Act from being emasculated in this important area."

He added: "The anti-trust laws of the United States embody a specific congressional purpose to encourage the bringing of private claims in the American courts in order that the national policy against monopoly may be vindicated."

Given that the U.S. Government is unlikely to take a less strong view of the Sherman Act, the UK could come away from any arbitration effectively empty-handed.

## Rival Linfood bid for Key supermarkets

BY RAY MAUGHAN

LINFOOD has made a £37.5m offer for Key Markets, the supermarket chain operated by Fitch Lovell, the food retailing and manufacturing group. It comes on the eve of the Monopolies Commission report on Linfood's £75m bid for Fitch.

The new offer is designed to counter a £34.8m offer for the Supermarkets already agreed between Fitch and Safeway Food Stores. Safeway and Fitch reached this agreement last month subject to approval from the Office of Fair Trading and of Fitch shareholders.

Linfood, in a letter to Fitch shareholders last night, is attempting to persuade them to vote against the Safeway deal at a meeting on May 20, and accept the higher offer.

The bidder has told its own shareholders, whose approval is also required to buy Key Markets, that its profits in the year ended last month grew by almost 40 per cent to £10.5m.

The Monopolies Commission report is widely expected to recommend that the £75m bid, launched last October, should be allowed to proceed. It is understood that the five members of the investigating team have reached a unanimous verdict.

Linfood, however, has given a clear warning to Fitch shareholders that if it does win the approval of the Commission, it will not renew the full offer "even if permitted to do so following the reference."

Safeway is now considering its own position in the light of Linfood's move and is expected to argue strongly that Fitch has undertaken a binding agreement. The stakes are high since Key Markets represents one of the few remaining opportunities to buy an established chain of supermarkets in the increasingly concentrated food retailing industry.

## BL objectives set out

DETAILS of the strategic objectives agreed between the board of BL, the state-owned motor group, and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, surfaced officially for the first time yesterday. Mr Norman Lamont, Industry Minister, spelled out the agreed strategic objectives in the House of Commons.

These were to return all the constituent businesses, either together or separately, to the private sector as soon as practical.

Peripheral activities would be disposed of in order to concentrate on vehicle manufacture and sales, and a rate of return on operations would be sought that would attract external funds on normal commercial terms without Government support.

## Bedford chief

THE BEDFORD commercial vehicles division of General Motors has appointed a new general manager. He is Mr J. T. Battenberg III, who joins Bedford from Antwerp where he was general manager of General Motors Continental.

## Insurance ruling

IRISH NATIONAL Insurance Company yesterday won a \$540,535 High Court claim in London against Oman Insurance Company, arising out of an explosion and fire at an Aramco plant in Saudi Arabia in 1978.

Oman, which had reinsured part of Irish National's risk, had refused to pay its share, arguing that the business had been misdescribed and was excluded under the terms of the reinsurance agreement.

## BR cuts 9,000 staff

BRITISH RAIL cut railway staff by nearly 9,000 last year, and a further 1,500 have gone so far this year. Another 5,500 staff in non-rail businesses - hotels, property, engineering - also left the payroll last year, leaving a total of 212,722 employees.

Progress in cutting railway working expenses by £80m last year through better use of assets, staff reductions and more flexible working practices are a major theme of the report by chairman Sir Peter Parker in the annual report and accounts published yesterday.

Changes in working practices, however, resulted in 34 days of strikes in 1982, contributing to the group trading loss of £173.6m against a £7.2m loss in 1981.

## Doulton expands

ROYAL DOULTON, which in recent years disposed of eight of its potteries and cut its workforce by 3,000, is planning a multi-million pound investment programme in response to improving world markets.

## Trading inquiry

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading is to carry out two reviews concerning advance payments made by consumers, for goods or services which are lost when businesses become insolvent.

The first review will investigate the problem of protecting consumers' prepayments. The second will examine the effectiveness of existing schemes which offer protection to consumers who send advance payments in response to advertisements in newspapers or periodicals.

## March on London

THE PEOPLE's March for Jobs 1983, which set out from Glasgow for London on April 22, passed its half-way mark yesterday. It will culminate with a mass rally in London four days before polling in the general election. Labour activists see it as an unrivalled opportunity to demonstrate on the problems of unemployment.

## Textiles upturn

THE BRITISH woollen industry is coming out of the recession, Mr Alan Clough, president of the Confederation of British Wool Textiles, said in London yesterday.

Output was between 5 and 10 per cent higher than a year ago and the industry expected to be recruiting workers by the autumn.

## Societies to merge

CHELSEA and Birmingham & Edgbury building societies are planning to merge to form a new society with assets of £700m.



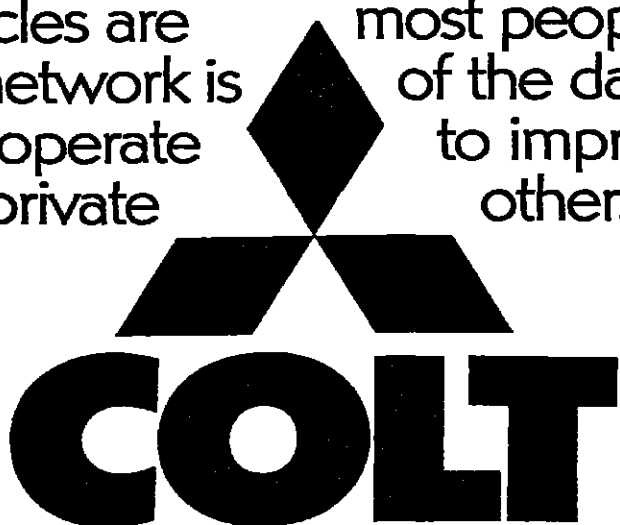
# UP GROWING ▲ CAR SELLING FASTMOVING ▲ PACESETTING ▲TURBOCHARGING ▲ DEALER SPREADING ▲ JOB MAKING ▲AIR CHARTERING ▲ AGE HELPING ▲ CHILD CARING ▲SHOW JUMPING ▲ POWER BOATING ▲ YACHT RACING ▲SKY DIVING ▲ HORSE RACING ▲ RALLY BACKING ▲STANDARD SETTING ▲ LIFE LIVING...COLT

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Our view of things is simple. Like most people, we have to work most hours of the day. But while we're at it we'd like to improve the quality of existence, for others as well as for us.  
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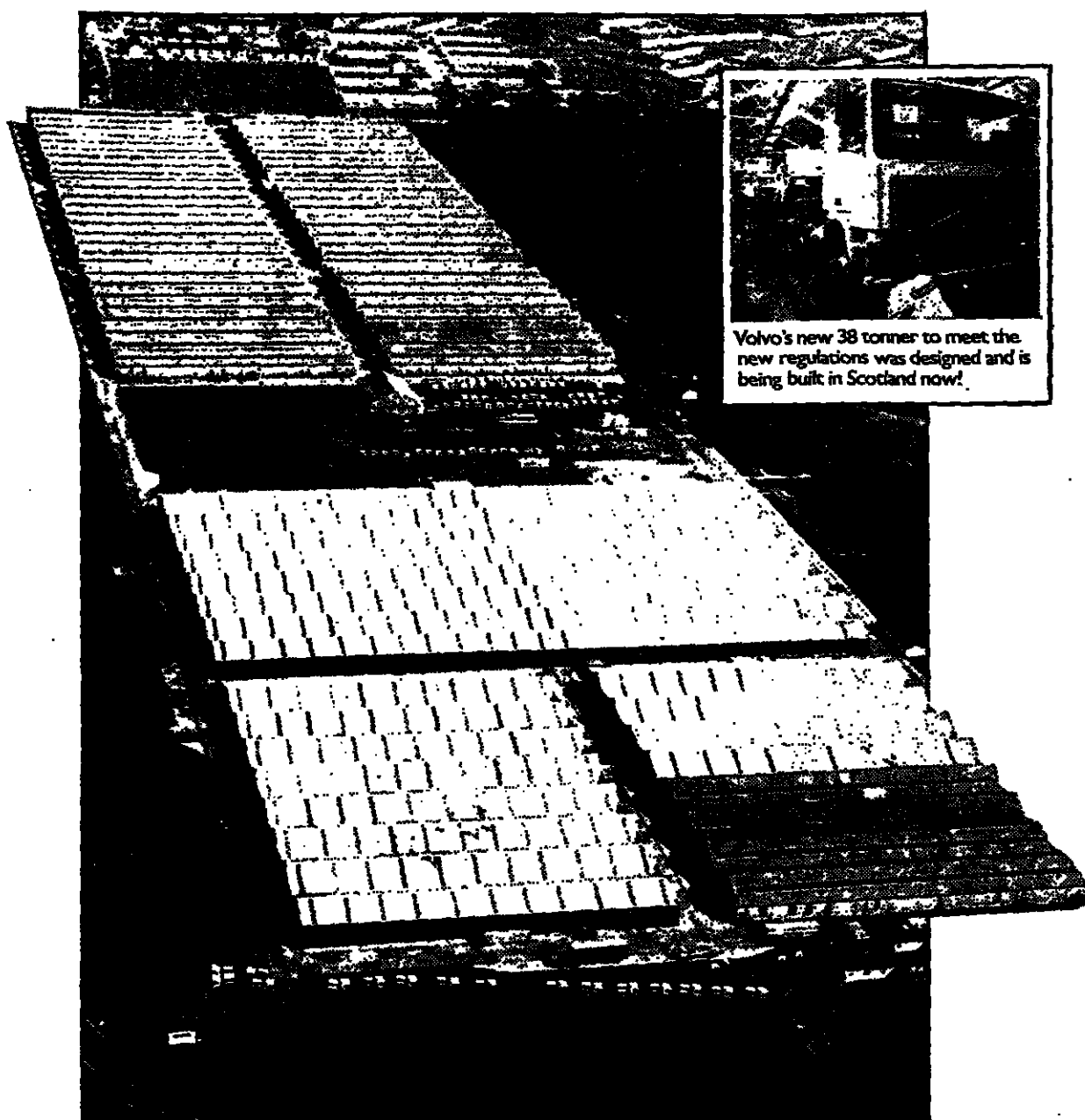


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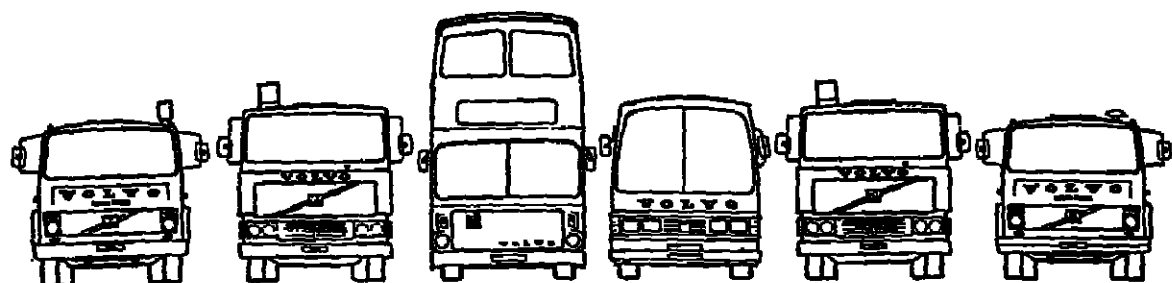
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## UK NEWS

BRITISH ELECTION CAUSES FINANCE BILL TO BE REDRAWN

# Capital taxes affected most by June decision

By Robin Pauley

A POLITICAL bullbait which has arisen over the truncating of the Finance Bill, which has to be approved before Parliament is dissolved tomorrow, has centred on income tax, where Labour has blocked the Conservatives' plans to raise the higher rate thresholds, and on mortgage relief.

The Tories wanted to raise the amount borrowed for house purchase which would be allowable for tax relief from £25,000 to £30,000, which Labour also blocked.

It became apparent yesterday, however, that these effects would not be immediate, if at all. But there would be a much more significant impact on capital gains and capital transfer taxes.

The Inland Revenue has made clear that all pay taxed under the Pay As You Earn system (PAYE) will have deductions based on thresholds and rates contained in the 1983 Budget, even though the relevant clauses have been ditched from the enabling Finance Bill. Mortgage relief for the new higher

level of interest up to £30,000 will also be included.

The new holding Finance Act made legal the Inland Revenue's pragmatic approach, as all the new codes and tax tables have gone to employers. If Labour wins the election it can have a new Budget and new Finance Bill; if the Tories win they can restore the measures lost in the shortening of the Bill.

Capital Transfer Tax (CTT) is more complicated. The crucial clause 63 has been deleted from the Bill. This would have enabled the rate of tax to be cut in 1983 and this cannot now happen. However, this is not as great a problem as it might have been, because last year's Finance Act introduced the automatic uprating of CTT bands and thresholds on the basis of the movement in the retail prices index.

So the bands and thresholds will rise in 1983. But the Budget plan to give more relief by "over-indexation" is lost — although the pledge by Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary, to restore everything in

decides that this would be made up or paid back later if the Tories win.

Another important change was that the changes were to have applied for all transfers after March 15 1983 (Budget Day). But the new rates will apply only for transfers on or after April 6 1983 (the first day of the financial year).

As a result, the CTT liability on a transfer at death of an estate worth £100,000 will be £13,000 instead of £13,000 (see table). On a £1m estate the liability is now £349,650, instead of £347,250.

On lifetime transfers the liability on a £100,000 estate will be £2,800 instead of £2,500, and on £1m it will be £320,800 instead of £318,875.

The only clause to survive on Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is the one which will allow companies to treat shares or assets of the same kind as a single or "pooled" asset after holding it for 12 months, rather than having to treat and identify each share as an individual separate item. All other CGT clauses have been dropped.

## Changes in Bill detailed

### CLAUSES DROPPED

TECHNICAL clauses concerning refund of value added tax to government departments and conditions on discretionary registration.

Changes to restrictions on relief for loans for purchase of land for self-employed people living in job-related accommodation.

Changes to conditions for share option schemes for employees, which would have raised the monthly contributions limit from £30 to £75.

The minimum amount on which an individual can be assessed for income tax by virtue of apportionment in close companies to be raised from £200 to £1,000.

Technical clauses covering rules on incidental costs of obtaining company loan finance, definition of Trustees Savings Banks, calculating tax relief on disposals before and after a company joins a group or consortium, stock relief where houses are taken in part exchange, carry back of surplus Advanced Corporation Tax, and changes to the arrangements for recovering taxes in the lower courts.

All clauses relating to controlled foreign companies and the proposed clampdown on tax havens.

Capital allowances for dwelling houses let on assured tenancies.

The raising of the exemption limit for Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on gifts of assets and land disposals.

Other CGT changes concerning foreign currency accounts, people becoming absolutely entitled to settled property, foreign trustees and non-resident settlements.

All clauses relating to Capital Transfer Tax.

All clauses relating to oil taxation

CAPITAL TRANSFER TAX		
Size of estate	1982 rate indexed to RPI*	If original Finance Bill had passed
DEATH RATES		
£	£	£
100,000	13,000	13,000
150,000	33,500	33,000
250,000	84,650	83,250
500,000	223,950	222,250
1,000,000	549,650	547,250
2,500,000	1,382,750	1,381,000
5,000,000	3,491,650	3,446,500
LIFETIME RATES		
£	£	£
100,000	6,500	6,500
150,000	16,500	16,500
250,000	42,300	42,375
500,000	126,100	126,075
1,000,000	320,800	318,875
2,500,000	817,600	817,625
5,000,000	2,223,100	2,226,125

\* Retail prices index

which concern assets — relief for expenditure and charge of receipts.

All clauses relating to changes in liability to Development Land Tax.

Provisions relating to special and general tax commissioners.

### CLAUSES AMENDED

Income Tax: The basic rate of 30 per cent to stay, but all provisions relating to changes in thresholds and higher rate band indexation to be amended to remain at 1982-83 levels.

Small companies' rate of Corporation Tax to be 38 per cent (instead of 40), but sub-sections raising limit at which the rate applies to be deleted.

Relief on interest on mortgages to be pegged at previous level of £25,000 and not raised to £30,000.

Technical amendment relating to short title and interpretation of the Finance Act 1983.

### CLAUSES RETAINED

All increases on Customs and Excise duties.

Corporation Tax to be charged at 32 per cent. Rate of Advanced Corporation Tax to be three-sevenths.

Increase in personal, married and

age allowances. Rule changes on widow's bereavement allowances.

Changes on loan interest paid under deduction of tax. Clauses relating to life policies and perks such as cars, houses and scholarships.

Relief for investment in corporate trades. Tax rules affecting public lending right and copyright. Tax relief on employees' seconded to charities.

Building societies: interest to be payable gross on certificates of deposit.

Capital allowances on industrial buildings and certain film expenditure and teletext receivers.

Election for polling of shareholders for capital gains tax.

All the general oil taxation.

Reduction of the National Insurance surcharge.

Miscellaneous clauses on National Savings supplements, rates of interest for government lending and suspension of certain payments into the National Loans Fund in respect of new towns.

General clauses on tax exemption for Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and a technical arrangement for pre-consolidation amendments.

## EEC budget rebate doubted

By Kevin Brown

LABOUR yesterday challenged the Prime Minister's repeated promise to secure a budget rebate from the European Community at the EEC summit in Stuttgart on June 6, just three days before the election.

Mr Eric Heffer, Labour's chief Common Market spokesman, told the House of Commons that it was clear the Prime Minister would fail, and he repeated Labour's pledge to begin immediate negotiations for withdrawal.

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, who was answering questions on EEC affairs, was less bullish on the issue than Mrs Thatcher has been in recent months. Mr Pym said he was "absolutely confident" that the Government would secure

an agreement acceptable to the Commons.

However, he told MPs: "It remains to be seen that we will get an agreement on June 6, but that is what we want to see and it is what our partners want to see, and we hope that it will happen."

Mr Pym clashed repeatedly with Labour Shadow Ministers who attacked the Government's record on EEC financing, which Community foreign ministers will discuss at an informal meeting next week and at the Foreign Affairs Council on May 24.

He robustly defended the Government's record in obtaining rebates on Britain's contributions to

the budget, and attacked the failure of the last Labour government in rebate negotiations.

Mr Heffer said the Government had been supported by Labour in all its attempts to recover money from the EEC, despite the lack of Conservative support for the same objective when Labour was in government.

Mr Pym said it was unclear how Labour would carry out its election pledge to leave the Community. "They would not find it very easy, nor do we know how they would cope with the consequential loss of jobs and all the other problems we would have as a result," he said to Labour jeers.

## Labour fund revised down to £2.25m

By Margaret van Hattem

LABOUR's £2.5m election fund target has been revised down to £2.25m after a reassessment by trade union leaders of their ability to raise funds.

Mr David Bassett, head of the Trade Unions for Labour Victory (TULV) group of union leaders, emerged from a meeting yesterday saying: "we can provide £2.25m."

The declaration, underlined by a promise from Nuge, the public employees union, to boost their contribution from £100,000 to £220,000, put the seal on a provisional pledge by TULV leaders last weekend.

Labour's Shadow Cabinet and National Executive Committee approved yesterday in barely an hour the party's longest yet manifesto. Publication will be at the start of next week.

lack of demand to constrain output within the next four months.

● Moves to affiliate constitutional non-political unions to the Labour Party were strengthened yesterday when the annual conference of the largest Civil Service union voted at Brighton to ballot their members on the issue.

However, it is widely believed that members of the 200,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association will reject affiliation in the poll.

● The Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association yesterday decided to make the decline of Britain's merchant fleet a general election issue.

Members of the association are being asked to question parliamentary candidates on their parties' shipping policy, and to cast votes in the election accordingly.

## Labour needs 5% swing to win

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor

THE LABOUR Party would have to obtain the largest swing of votes in any general election since 1945 to win an overall majority on June 9.

A study of the new parliamentary constituencies prepared jointly by the BBC and Independent Television News, with a panel of academics, underlines the scale of Labour's task over the next month.

Since the last election the Boundary Commission has revised the shape of over 90 per cent of the constituencies. The number of parliamentary seats is being increased from 635 to 650.

Professor Ivor Crewe of the University of Essex notes in the study that, as a result of the new boundaries, the Conservatives would have gained an extra 23 seats at the 1979 general election, at the partial expense of the Labour Party, which would have lost nine seats, and the Liberal Party, which would have lost two seats.

Had the 1979 election been fought on the new boundaries, the Conservatives' overall majority would have been 71 instead of 44, and its majority over Labour would have been 101 instead of 71.

These calculations take no account of by-election changes since the last election or of the establishment since then of the Social Democratic Party, 25 of whose members won election in 1979 for Labour.

Professor Crewe highlights the decline in the number of marginal seats. The number of Conservative and Labour seats with majorities of under 10 per cent has fallen from 135 to 126 and the number with highly marginal majorities of under 5 per cent has dropped from 77 to 60.

The result is that for any swing of normal general election proportions, the turnover of seats will be smaller on the new than the old boundaries.

Professor Crewe argues that the boundary revisions have doubly penalised Labour by taking seats away from it and giving extra ones to the Tories, and also by reducing the reward in seats to Labour for a given increase in its share of the vote.

Consequently, if at the next election the Conservatives and Labour obtained equal shares of the national vote, as a result of the uniform 2.5 per cent swing to Labour, the result would be Tories 318, Labour 300, Liberals 10 and others 23.

The study points out that to obtain a bare overall majority Labour would need a net gain of 66 seats, requiring a 5.4 per cent swing from the Conservatives.

The former is not unprecedented: the Conservatives achieved a net gain of 88 seats in 1950, 77 in 1970 and 62 in 1979. But a swing of 5.5 per cent is higher than that obtained by any party since 1945.

## Farewell to the old guard

By John Hunt

MOST OF the surviving Labour veterans of the 1945 Attlee Government and many Tories from the Macmillan era will be in the group of more than 50 MPs who will be retiring when the present Parliament comes to an end tomorrow.

At the moment the number who have announced that they will be leaving is less than the 61 who departed from the House of Commons on the eve of the 1979 general election. But the eventual total will probably be greater as some Labour MPs are still in re-selection difficulties in their constituencies and about six Tory MPs are likely to be left without a constituency as a result of boundary changes.

The change in composition of the parties at Westminster will be accelerated by the retirements, and there will be a diminishing number who had connections with the Heath and Wilson administrations.

Those traditional Tory stalwarts, the knights of the shires — and suburbs — may be becoming an endangered species. At least 26 Tories have announced they are going, and this includes 17 with knighthoods.

However, 12 of them received the accolade under Mrs Thatcher's Government, so there is always the chance that their numbers will be replenished again if the Tories are returned to power. A political milestone will be passed with the departure of Mr Jo Grimond, the elder statesman of the Liberal Party, who has been MP for Orkney and Shetland since 1950.

Of the 26 Labour MPs retiring there are at least six who served in the Cabinet or as junior ministers. The best known figure among them is Sir Harold Wilson, aged 67, elected in 1945 and already a fresh-faced boyish President of the Board of Trade in the Attlee government by 1947. He has represented the Liverpool seat of Huyton since 1945.

The longest-serving member among the departures is John Parker, 76, the father of the House who was elected as Labour MP for Rotherham in 1935 and has represented Dagenham since 1945.



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## JOBS COLUMN

## Career development, or look back in wonder

BY MICHAEL DIXON

THE THING which has probably brought me the most entertainment over the years is the question: "How did you get into your line of work in the first place?"

I have asked it of some hundreds of people and rarely been disappointed by the response. Indeed, probably the most unusual case was the chief accountant who ever since he could remember had wanted to be a chief accountant. He is the only person I've met whose career had gone entirely as planned.

Several others also proved to be still in the kind of work they had chosen in their youth. But even they had all had some skirmish with fate. The crux was when, as a young lieutenant during the war, I was repatriated by a court martial for negligence. "Soon afterwards I suddenly began getting promoted pretty rapidly."

"I think the reason why I kept being promoted to my brother officers was that the case made my name seem familiar to the high and mighty, but the penalty wasn't stiff enough for them to remember what I was familiar for. They just assumed I had done something good. After all, they had a lot on their minds in those days and had to make decisions fast."

But only a minority of the hundreds who have answered the questions appear to have planned their eventual career at all. At least four in every five had taken up their first mainstream job by accident, fairly often a bizarre one. The prize is at present held by one Tony Felix (naturally, if any readers think they have better claims I'll gladly consider them).

As he approached his degree examinations in economics at Warwick, University some 16 years ago he had whittled down the choice to either becoming a barrister or joining an advertising agency. But as a relatively outside chance, and simply because he generally admired the company, he had put his name forward for interview as a prospective management trainee with Marks and Spencer.

While studying at Warwick he also ran the university's popular music group and had managed to get it several profitable engagements off the campus. Unfortunately, the fans sometimes got a bit over-enthusiastic and ended up thumping not only one another, but members of the group as well. Mr Felix therefore signed up from outside the university a couple of bouncers, respectively called Len and Gordon.

One day as the student-inter-viewing season was drawing

near and the group had a potentially hazardous gig to play in the evening, Len called to say he couldn't be there. He had to go and comfort his sister who had just been told by her boss, a hosiery manufacturer, that she had lost her job because the firm was bankrupt.

"When you're that age of course you feel you can do anything, especially if you're reading economics," Tony Felix says. "So I persuaded Len to turn up by promising to go then and there to see his sister's boss and help to sort out the problem. Surprisingly the boss agreed to see me."

"When I arrived he explained that he was having to close because his biggest customer had let him down on an order and stranded him with thousands of gross of women's tights."

"As it happened we had family connections with the chief of a large wholesale business. So I slipped out to get it several profitable engagements off the campus. Unfortunately, the fans sometimes got a bit over-enthusiastic and ended up thumping not only one another, but members of the group as well. Mr Felix therefore signed up from outside the university a couple of bouncers, respectively called Len and Gordon."

"A few days later I went to the interview with the Marks and Spencer recruitment man-

ager. And when towards the end he asked me how I thought I could contribute to the company's business, I had a happy idea. I asked him how much they paid for women's tights."

"He was a bit taken aback, partly because he didn't know. But I persuaded him to phone and find out. When he told me, the price was a good deal higher than I'd paid. So I fished out the invoice from the manufacturer, put it in front of him and said: 'Well, I can buy them for that.'"

Which is how Mr Felix began his career in management with Marks and Spencer. How he has since become vice-chairman of New Opportunity Press, where he specialises in advanced information technology, is another story entirely. But that will have to wait for another day.

## Hands-on

THE EXPLORATORY—a project now awaiting a go-getting manager to realise it in Bristol—is not altogether a new idea. It can be traced back to work by Francis Bacon which was published a year after he died in 1626 and describing an imaginary country called New Atlantis.

One of its finest institutions was the fabulous House of Solomon which was filled with all manner of engines and in-

struments to enable the country's citizens to discover science and technology by making experiments for themselves. "It was a place to stimulate and amuse; a place to find out about the natural and man-made world, the universe as seen by the eye and understood by science, and to discover oneself," says Professor Richard Gregory, chairman of the project's trustees.

Encouraged by the success of the modern equivalent now running in San Francisco, they are well on their way to founding a British one in Bristol. The key need is for a project director willing and able not only to set up the comprehensive "hands-on" public exhibition virtually from scratch, but also to carry through its fund-raising programme.

The task clearly calls for a rare combination of entrepreneurial flair, persuasive personality, highly developed organising ability, and knowledge of science and technology. The job is not for the faint of heart. It would seem a lot to ask for a salary of only about £15,000 with relatively few perks. But few job offers could be more challenging and potentially worth while.

I hope that the trustees will prove justified in the faith that this column's readers include someone who is up to the job. (They even think there might

be one of you who could do it successfully part-time.) Written inquiries only, please, to Professor Gregory, c/o Lawrence & Co., Shannon Court, Corn Street, Bristol BS99 7JZ.

## Headhunter

ROY WEBB, head of Jonathan Wren International specialising in recruiting bankers to work abroad, seeks a third consultant to range the world helping him as finding more. Candidates should be either successful recruitment consultants already or extensively experienced bankers able and keen to add headhunting to their skills. Fluent French and/or German preferred. Expected earnings in salary plus results-based bonus about £20,000. Rest negotiable. Inquiries to 170 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LX; tel 01-623 1266, telex 8954673.

## Head

DUDLEY EDMUNDS of Banking People (4 London Wall Buildings, Blomfield St, London EC2M 5NT; tel 01-589 8161) seeks a consummate deposit dealer to work in Bahrain for a Middle East bank. Main concern will be dollar deposits. Tax-free salary around \$60,000 plus housing and other expatriate perks. Confidential treatment promised.

## Eurobonds Sales and Trading

£25,000 plus benefits

Our client is a merchant banking subsidiary of a major Japanese bank undertaking a wide range of corporate finance and eurobond activities. Despite difficult circumstances in financial markets, performance in 1982 proved to be outstandingly successful—record net profits and important changes in regulatory policy are having far-reaching effects on levels and ranges of activity. Consequently, they seek to strengthen and increase their U.K. based merchant banking division.

Eurobond Traders and Sales Executives are now sought, possessing 3/4 year's relevant experience. There is a very real opportunity to quickly achieve management status with rapid salary progression. Sales Executives will be expected to undertake travel to Europe, the Far East and Japan.

Candidates interested in the challenge of a lively and active environment should contact Kevin Byrne, Banking and Finance Division, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY or telephone 01-242 0965, Ref. IB1113.



Michael Page Partnership  
International Recruitment Consultants  
London New York  
Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow

## International Treasury Management, Ltd.

## Young Currency Economist

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Marine Midland Bank have formed a joint venture to offer a wide range of treasury management services to corporations, financial institutions and government agencies around the world. The new company, International Treasury Management, Ltd., has offices in London, New York, Singapore and Hong Kong and arranges currency and interest rate swaps and long-term placements, provides financial futures advisory services and is a market leader in foreign exchange options.

We are looking for an additional currency economist whose major responsibility will be to work with the Chief Economist in the preparation and production of our principal external publication, the monthly Foreign Exchange Rate Forecasts.

Applicants must have a post-graduate qualification in international economics, 2-3 years' experience in the financial sector and practical experience of using computers.

As the Economist selected will be expected to work closely with clients within 12 months, we are looking for potential high fliers, with strong communication skills, and are therefore prepared to negotiate a remuneration package which will attract the best talent available.

Please apply in confidence to: Teresa Andrews, Personnel Officer, MARINE MIDLAND BANK, N.A., 34 Moorgate, London EC2R 6JR. Telephone: 01-638 1788

## International Treasury Management, Ltd.

A partnership between The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Marine Midland Bank.

## Merchant Banking International Capital Markets

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited is continuing to expand its International Capital Markets Division and now seeks suitably qualified executives to take responsibility in the further development of its new issues business in the U.S.A.

The successful candidate is likely to be a graduate in his/her late 20's/early 30's with a proven record in the Eurobond market and have the experience, initiative and enthusiasm to make an early contribution to business development.

A competitive salary will be offered together with a substantial staff benefits package.

Applications giving full career and salary details should be sent in confidence to D. R. W. Potter, Managing Director:-

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited,  
114 Old Broad Street, London EC2P 2HY



## Export Finance

A major international bank wishes to appoint an assistant to its Export Finance Manager.

The successful applicant is likely to be aged between 27-34 and to have had several years experience of negotiating ECGD buyer and supplier credits in a merchant or international bank in London.

The position embraces all aspects of export finance and will entail contact with exporters and banks at management level. Considerable emphasis will be placed on marketing, self-motivation and a willingness and ability to generate new business will therefore be of prime importance.

The remuneration and benefits will be those normally associated with a large organisation of first class repute.

Interested applicants should write, giving full details of personal background and professional experience, to: D. HARDEN, Streets Advertising, Hulton House, 161-166 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DN indicating the names of any companies to which applications should not be forwarded.

## Streets Advertising Limited

Recruitment Division Confidential Reply Service

## Chief Executive

Industrial Safety Equipment  
c £25,000

The autonomous subsidiary of a diverse and successful British public group manufactures and markets a well known range of industrial safety equipment. Due to the reorganisation of the current incumbent to the centre and in order to place increased emphasis on business development and profit maximisation a new Chief Executive is to be appointed who will drive the company forward from its current level of £22 million turnover.

Agreed ideally in their 40's, candidates should have a first-rate track record including profit responsibility at General Management/MD level. They should also have been exposed to manufacture and use of a wide range of consumable products where design and price considerations play a significant part in determining success. Furthermore, they should be accustomed to handling top level negotiations and sales contracts to major industrial companies as well as to public utilities and local authorities.

An excellent salary and benefits package is negotiable. Relocation expenses are payable where appropriate.

Write or telephone for an application form or send a brief c.v. to the address below quoting ref. GMS/523/1/FT on both letter and envelope and advising us of any other applications you have made to PA Personnel Services within the last twelve months. No details are divulged to clients without prior permission. Initial interviews will be conducted by PA Consultants.

PA Personnel Services

Hyde Park House, 60A Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE. Tel: 01-235 6060



A member of PA International

## Consultancy for the City

Age 26-30  
to £20,000 + car

We are the UK arm of one of the largest international accounting and management consultancy practices.

As consultants, we provide services to a variety of financial institutions in the City. This might involve advising senior management on such matters as:

- marketing and business strategies
- new product development and pricing
- organisation studies
- development of effective management information systems
- introduction of new technology

We now need additional consultants to join our professional team. We can offer the variety of working on a wide range of assignments, often as a member of a multidisciplinary team. We will also provide a continuing training programme to build on your existing skills.



Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co.

A MEMBER OF ANSA IN EUROPE AND ARTHUR YOUNG INTERNATIONAL

You will have at least a good first degree and, ideally, be a member of a recognised professional body. Your career will be City-based and should have exposed you to a variety of functional areas. Your record will demonstrate particular expertise in at least one area, such as business development, management services or corporate finance. Developed communication skills, commercial perception and analytical ability are essential qualities.

If you believe that you can meet our requirements and are interested in working in a challenging environment, write to Ian Tomlinson (quoting Ref. CC/1/FT) giving concise career and personal details. If you prefer, telephone in confidence for an initial discussion.

Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co., Management Consultants, Fettes House, 7 Fettes Buildings, Fettes Lane, London EC4A 3TH. Telephone: 01-637 7320

## Bank Recruitment Specialists

## BOND SALES EXECUTIVE

A major international merchant bank—one of the leading names in the capital markets—has an immediate requirement for a Bond Sales Executive. Candidates are likely to be working currently as Director or Associate Director level, with current earnings of £10,000+. Interested parties are invited to contact Ken Anderson in confidence.

## EUROBOND TRADER

For an ambitious Bond trader with a 2-3 years' current experience in an active trading room, an outstanding opportunity to enter in developing the market-making activities of a prominent European bank.

## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

A qualified Accountant aged 26-30, with approx. 3 years' post-qualifying experience in Corporate Finance, is sought by a prominent international merchant bank to assist in developing the bank's services in mergers, acquisitions, corporate restructurings etc. Additionally, current opportunities exist in Corporate Finance and Lending for high-calibre recently-qualified Chartered Accountants. These appointments are open to graduates who have obtained first-class points in professional examinations.

## LENDING OFFICER (U.K.)

Well-regarded European bank seeks an ambitious leading banker (26-30) to take responsibility for U.K. corporate business development, working within an established professional team. The ideal candidate would be a graduate, with three to five years' experience in a business development role and a strong network of contacts.

## LENDING OFFICER (Invest in Germany)

A major bank, expanding its U.K. presence, seeks an experienced leading banker to take responsibility for U.K. corporate business development. Candidates should be aged 26-30, graduates, with experience in both U.K. and German development areas and fluency in German.

Additionally, opportunities in European business development exist for two similarly qualified bankers (development based) in London, the other in Düsseldorf, W. Germany.

## F/X DEALER (Invest in French)

Due to business expansion, a renowned European bank wishes to recruit an additional Foreign Exchange Dealer. Fluency in French is required, coupled with a desirable background of one to two years in interbank or customer business.

Our current assignments also include...

LEASING EXECUTIVE ..... to £25,000

F.R.N. TRADER ..... to £30,000

BOND SYNDICATIONS ..... £30,000 +

SPOT F/X DEALER ..... c.£20,000

SPOT YEN DEALER ..... negotiable

SNR. STERLING DEALER ..... to £16,000

COMMODITY/LAFFE TRADER ..... c.£14,000

FUND MANAGER (Equities) ..... to £12,000

CREDIT ANALYST ..... c.£11,000

JNR. F/X & DEPO DEALER ..... c.£10,000

Please contact Ken Anderson or Leslie Squires. Telephone: 01-588 6644

Anderson, Squires, Bank Recruitment Specialists  
Blomfield House, 85 London Wall, London EC2M 7AE

Anderson, Squires

## Manchester Exchange Trust Limited

## AREA MANAGER (FINANCIAL MARKETING) LONDON

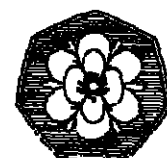
c. £14,000 p.a. + car + profit-sharing

Due to internal promotion and business growth this innovative City-based corporate treasury practice with a turnover in excess of £1,200 million has an opening for a talented professional aged 28-40 to join its small but highly skilled marketing team.

Candidates must hold a relevant qualification or degree and be able to demonstrate a proven record of success at a senior level in industry or commerce. If you are a self-starter with the necessary flair, integrity and creative ability to succeed in this demanding but rewarding position, please send a comprehensive c/v, marked personal, to:

The Company Secretary

Manchester Exchange Trust Ltd,  
3rd Floor, Pembroke House  
40 City Road, London EC1Y 2AX



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25 Whitehall,  
London SW1A 2BT.  
Enquire also how these  
recruitment services  
can be included in your  
coverage terms.



## Regional Controller, Europe

Our client is an expanding European subsidiary of a major, billion dollar turnover US group who are world leaders in disseminating business information in the private sector, and supported by sophisticated computer technology methods. Planned future growth in extensive European operations will exceed the impressive performance which has taken place during recent years.

Reporting to the Director of European Finance, prime responsibility will be to develop financial management systems, controls, and planning in the operating companies. An important aspect of the work, therefore, is close liaison with operational management to ensure effective communication and reporting.

Candidates, aged 27-32, will be qualified accountants with a strong commercial approach, and ideally with experience of US accounting requirements and work in Europe.

The appointment is City based with a significant amount of European travel. Salary will be up to £19,000 plus car. Please write in complete confidence with full career details to Mike Hann, quoting reference 1355.

# Odgers

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS  
Odgers and Co Ltd, One Old Bond St,  
London W1X 3TD Tel: 489 8811

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### Director of Social Security Operational Strategy -from £28,000 (under review)

In terms of both scale, and potential impact on Society, this is probably the most challenging post currently available in Information Technology. It will involve advising on, directing and managing the introduction of new technology in support of all social security operations, whilst maintaining uninterrupted current computer operations.

At present, around 24 million people are in receipt of one or more of the 30 benefits available. 1,200 million payments are made each year, with benefit expenditure totalling £27 billion. The objectives of the Strategy will be to make the fullest possible use of advanced computing and communications techniques in order to provide real improvements - for claimants, for DHSS staff, and for the tax payer. Implementation of the full strategy proposals will involve investment of around £1.6 billion over the next 20 years.

The person appointed will be expected to have an extensive record of proven management success, including the planning and implementation of major change within a

large organisation involving the introduction of computers used in an on-line/real-time environment. Candidates must be skilled in the personnel area, industrial relations and the political aspects of managing change during a period of large scale technical innovation. A financial control background and knowledge of the public sector would also be desirable.

The salary for this post, which is under review, is £28,235 a year, inclusive of inner London weighting. However, the Department would be prepared to consider, if necessary, a significantly higher salary for a candidate of exceptional qualifications and experience.

Relocation assistance may be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 8 June 1983) write to the Civil Service Commission, Alison Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1TB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/5914/2.

Department of Health & Social Security

## JAMES CAPEL & CO. PRIVATE CLIENT DEPARTMENT

We are seeking an additional Account Executive to join our Private Client team.

The selected candidate will be given a considerable degree of autonomy after an initial settling-in period. High-quality investment research and computer back-up are provided.

Applicants must have passed, or be exempt from, The Stock Exchange examinations, have at least five years relevant experience and preferably have a degree or other professional qualification.

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience, initiative and ability.

Please write in confidence by 31st May to:-

D. Schulten  
JAMES CAPEL & CO.  
Winchester House,  
100 Old Broad Street,  
London, EC2N 1BQ.

## COMMONWEALTH TRADING BANK OF AUSTRALIA SEEKS SENIOR FX DEALER

An experienced dealer is required to assist in expanding CTB's trading in the FX markets. This is a senior position, the successful applicant will need to trade actively in the London Market and have the enthusiasm to develop new contacts and the ability to supervise, motivate and train other dealing staff. Preferred age 25-35; competitive salary commensurate with experience plus benefits.

Please send full career details, in confidence, to:-

B. H. Sullman, Staff Manager  
Commonwealth Trading Bank  
of Australia  
71/91 Aldwych  
London WC2B 4ES



## Managing Director

London £35,000 plus

Pandrol International Ltd seeks a Managing Director to be fully accountable for its multi-national operations. Pandrol is the leading UK manufacturer of railway track fastening systems and equipment, with an expanding export business and 10 overseas subsidiaries. Its parent company, Charter Consolidated, provides funds for continuing expansion.

Candidates, probably 40-55, will have proven success in expanding the profitability of a substantial manufacturing operation with a significant export content. They will have risen to general management from marketing, production or finance. Powers of leadership, tact and administrative ability are essential.

For a full job description write in confidence to W.T. Agar at John Courtis & Partners, 104 Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5PU, showing clearly how you meet our client's requirements, quoting reference 2172/FT. Both men and women may apply.

# JC&P

John Courtis and Partners

## COMPANY SECRETARY

c£17,500 per annum + car



The appointment of our Company Secretary to the position of Group Company Secretary of Habitat/Mothercare PLC has created an exceptional and highly challenging career opportunity in Mothercare for a young man or woman to join us at a very exciting time of rapid expansion.

The successful candidate will have a sound commercial track record as well as professional qualifications as a solicitor, barrister or chartered secretary. He or she will be responsible for providing legal and corporate services, and will be particularly involved in the administration of Mothercare's self managed pension scheme with a substantial investment portfolio.

Applicants are likely to be in their mid-twenties to mid-thirties and must be able to communicate effectively at all levels. The appointment will be based at Mothercare's headquarters in Watford. Starting salary is in the region of £17,500 per annum and a Company car will be provided. Other benefits include a contributory pension scheme and profit linked share plan.

Please write with details of your experience and qualifications to Kevin Jones, Managing Director, Mothercare Limited, Cherry Tree Road, Watford, Herts WD25 8SH quoting reference FT 12/5.

# mothercare

## PERSONNEL CONSULTANCY

London c.£20,000+car

A major international firm of chartered accountants is seeking an experienced consultant to head up the personnel consulting section of its management consultancy department and to expand its activities in the human resources and personnel field. At present, the section is mainly concerned with executive selection.

The person appointed will initially be primarily concerned with operating and supervising the current activities but will be expected subsequently to initiate and lead in other areas of personnel and human resources work. Candidates should be in the age range 38 to 48 and have a degree or professional qualification. A period of line management will be an advantage and experience must include executive selection in a consultancy or agency of repute. The long-term prospects are excellent.

Applications will be treated in confidence and should include a comprehensive CV. Box No. A 8213, Financial Times, 10 Cannon St., London, EC4P 4BY

## BOND SALES

Make a positive impact with a UK leader in the international capital markets. Their current expansion programme means candidates with French, Sterling and Yen bond sales experience are particularly relevant. Excellent career scope for professionals with sound technical ability. Salary to £25,000 p.a.

## MARKETING - LEASING

Complement a key area of growing UK bank within their highly profitable leasing unit. The position will cover all stages of deal negotiations with emphasis on increasing the managed client base. Candidates must be capable of contributing directly to the development of a dynamic, self-contained team. Of interest to applicants currently earning in excess of £15,000 p.a.



## TOP EXECUTIVE CAREERS

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## FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES WHO CAN MANAGE

You've spent at least ten years improving financial control in a major commercial operation.

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Britoil will provide you with that opportunity.

We have three senior positions to fill in the following areas:

- Provision and analysis of management information.
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The funds involved will be large—their control complex. So, you can count on us making the move financially attractive. Everything you would expect of a dynamic and successful oil company.

# Britoil

Find out how it all adds up. Contact the Senior Personnel Officer, Britoil plc, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5LJ, quoting reference FE/KWM/FT.

## Yorkshire Building Society

### Information Systems Manager Strategic Systems Development and Implementation

The Society, one of the UK's largest, is currently formulating its plans for the Development of Information Systems to meet its business needs for the future. This appointment offers an exciting career opportunity to join a progressive building society, and to be responsible for:

- the establishment and managing of a new department.
- the acquisition and implementation of large main frame computers supporting a distributed network of terminals and processors.
- the development and implementation of procedural, information and control systems across all areas of the Society's business.

The successful candidate, male or female, will probably be a graduate or professionally qualified with:

- the maturity and strength of personality to implement new technology.
- determination to secure the implementation of new management practices at all levels.
- a proven track record in DP Management in a large installation, with wide experience of computers, telecommunications and related technologies.

An attractive salary is negotiable in line with the demands of the job. A company car and the usual fringe benefits are available, together with generous assistance with relocation expenses where appropriate.

Write or telephone for an application form or send brief cv. to the address below, quoting ref: M258/8243/FT on both letter and envelope and advising us of any other applications you have made to PA Personnel Services within the last twelve months. No details are divulged to clients without prior permission. Initial interviews will be conducted by PA Consultants.

## PA Personnel Services

Hyde Park House, 60A Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE  
Tel: 01-235 6060



A member of PA International

## MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Age 27-35 years.

Salary neg.

£15-20,000

A major international leasing company seek to establish a medium ticket leasing presence here in the U.K. We seek applications from candidates with at least three years lease marketing experience gained within a leasing company, finance house, or, preferably, the leasing division of an international bank. Additional to marketing duties, applicants will be responsible for market identification, risk assessment documentation, evaluation etc. This represents an ideal "groundfloor" opportunity for the ambitious well motivated individual. We have a similar vacancy with equity participation but specialisation in consumer finance.

Please contact: Brian Gooch

## TREASURY MANAGER

Age 24-32

Salary

to £17,000

Our client, a well known name in investments, requires a Treasury Manager from a banking or corporate environment, with a track record in cash management and policy formation. Duties include the selection and control of banking services, foreign exchange management (no dealing) and involvement in investment policy decisions. This position would probably suit a graduate in their late 20's, and involve the supervision of junior staff.

Please contact: Diana Warner

## CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Age 33-45

Salary

c£18,000

A well respected European Bank, has a new opening for a qualified accountant. The bank is updating its computerised system from an IBM 34 to IBM 38, with Midas Package. Applicants must have an international banking background with experience of implementing computerised systems.

Please contact: Brenda Shepherd

**Jonathan Wren** RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
170 Bishopsgate - London EC2M 4LX - 01 623 1266

## Investment Management

A leading Life Office, based in the South, intends to appoint a deputy to the General Manager, Investments. Succession to the top job is envisaged within a few years. Funds under management approach £2 billion.

- PROVEN EXPERTISE in investment management in international markets is the prerequisite, almost certainly backed by an actuarial or accountancy qualification.
- REMUNERATION for discussion over £30,000. Age around 40.

Write in complete confidence to G.W.Elms as adviser to the company.

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10 HALLAM STREET LONDON WIN 6DJ

## Systems Management

£18,000 to £24,000 + car

An innovative results-oriented manager is wanted by a well-known City institution to take responsibility for a major new systems activity that is crucial to the future success of the business.

Age (28-35), formal qualifications (computer science, management) and salary track record are all of interest, but relevance will depend more on being:

- \* A good consultant. Able to take initiatives in selling ideas to operating management, to colleagues.
- \* Experienced in managing significant systems projects.
- \* Familiar with recent technical developments in distributed processing, office systems, microcomputers.
- \* Equipped with aptitude, maturity and drive to be able to manage situations successfully to a conclusion.
- \* Experienced in financial services or insurance, consultancy or a software house.

Convince us in writing and send a CV, quoting reference P426, to John Courtis and Partners, 104-112 Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5FU, or telephone 01-486 6849 for an application form.

**JC&P**

John Courtis and Partners

## SENIOR LEASING REPRESENTATIVE

**LEASING FINANCE EXECUTIVE** Salary £14,000  
Age 30-35 years + Car and benefits

An established leasing company seeks applications from Senior Finance Representatives, ideally experienced in the arranging of finance, covering medical and dental equipment or salespersons specialising in this sector, with extensive contacts. Candidates must be well presented, articulate and motivated. The position offers an excellent blend of marketing, research and ultimately higher rewards.

Please telephone or send detailed Curriculum Vitae in confidence to BRIAN GOOCH

**Jonathan Wren** RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
170 Bishopsgate - London EC2M 4LX - 01 623 1266

**Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance**

## Trust Executive (Corporate Trusts)

A vacancy has arisen in the Trustee Department City Office of this major composite Insurance Company for a Trust Executive with knowledge and experience of corporate trust work, in particular Loan Capital Trusts.

The successful candidate for this interesting position will probably not be over 45 and will have a sound grasp of the legal and accounting technicalities of corporate trusts, as well as possessing the ability to discuss such concepts at a high level.

Considerable practical experience is essential as the candidate appointed must have the ability to develop in the position quickly in order to take advantage of an envisaged opportunity to assume managerial responsibilities and status in a short space of time. A generous starting salary is offered which will be dependent upon experience and a London Allowance is payable, currently set at £1240 per annum. Terms and conditions of employment are excellent, including non-contributory pension and life assurance scheme, Staff Housing loans (available in approved cases only), interest free season ticket loans, and free luncheon facilities.

Please write, enclosing a full C.V. to:—  
M.K. Paley, Personnel Offices,  
Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc,  
Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LS.

## COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

Circa £20K + car etc.

Our client is an operating group of one of the largest British International organisations, with interests in consumer goods, retailing, paper, printing and packaging. A subsidiary Company based in Suffolk manufactures blown plastic containers for the Beverage industry and a variety of other diverse applications. This is a profitable growth business with a turnover for 1983 estimated at around £25m, employing 600 people. A Commercial Director is required to take over responsibility principally for Accounting, Purchasing (approx. £12m p.a.) and Personnel. He/she will be supported in this role by Managers in each department. Applications are invited for candidates fulfilling the following criteria:

- Accountancy qualification or M.B.A. with subsequent financial experience.
- Age 30-45 years.
- Experience in Financial Accounting and purchasing of large volume commodities.
- Long term, high value Sales Contracts experience in process type industry.
- Experience preferably in a similar size of business.

C.V.'s should be addressed to:

Dr G. Copple  
WRIGHTSON WOOD (BRISTOL) LTD  
125 Pembroke Road  
Bristol BS8 3ES  
Tel: 0272 738767

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence, such that no information will be divulged to the client without the consent of the applicant.

## INTERNATIONAL BANKING

SENIOR MARKETING OFFICER(S) c. £20,000

Two energetically expanding international banks each seek a senior banker with substantial and successful business development experience, together with people management skills.

—One is to be concerned with the U.K. Corporate market. —The other should have exposure to Latin America and therefore have appropriate linguistic ability.

**CREDIT ANALYSIS** £8,000 - £14,000

Progressive career opportunities occur with a number of active City banks for young bankers fundamentally with a genuinely sound credit background. Specific situations demand additional skills — e.g. fluency in Spanish, Italian/marketing potential/supervisory ability.

**ACCOUNTING/FIN. CONTROL** £11,000 - £14,000

Good all round knowledge of computerised international bank accounting is the essential requirement of this expanding European bank's formal accounting qualification could possibly offset relatively short-term experience.

An interesting opportunity also exists in Internal Audit with a new and rapidly developing City bank.

Please Tel: John Chiverton, Anna Costello or Trevor Williams

**JOHN CHIVERTON ASSOCIATES LTD.** 5, CASTLE COURT, LONDON, EC3, 01-623 3861

## WANTED

LICENSED DEALER in Securities with proven client base seeks position with leading firm/Institution. Write Box 16, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London, EC4A 3DF.

## SENIOR CURRENCY DEALERS

Our client is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a major international bank, and a leading MARKET MAKER in its field. These positions are KEY APPOINTMENTS in the overall strategy of the current phase of a major expansion programme. The ideal candidates will be 30-40, have dealt foreign exchange in all major currencies, have a working knowledge of the bank note market. Experience in room administration, position management, and an ability to communicate at all levels are prime requirements.

Additionally the positions offer scope and challenge in the fields of planning and marketing. A working knowledge of at least two European languages is required. Salary negotiable.

Applications will be handled in strictest confidence by:—  
ROGER PARKER

## EXHIBITION EXECUTIVE

International Exhibition Contractor requires an ambitious executive with senior management potential. The successful candidate will have a high degree of self-motivation, enthusiasm and leadership qualities, with a knowledge of sales and business management. He/she will be an effective communicator, with a basic knowledge of electrical engineering. Experience of the Exhibition industry would be an added advantage.

The appointment will be in the Midlands and the preferred age range is 28-35 years. An attractive salary will be offered, with pension scheme and the usual fringe benefits. Please submit letters of application together with CV's in the first instance to:—  
Box A8214, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street  
London EC4A 3DF

## City to £25,000 Commercial Conveyancing Early Partnership

Our client is a medium-sized progressive and profitable practice with a powerful client-base in the building industry. Growth and planned development now dictate the need for a broadly-skilled commercial conveyancer with considerable business acumen to join their general commercial team.

The ideal candidate will be aged 28-30, a graduate who, having qualified with a city firm, will by now have at least 2 years specialist postqualification experience in commercial conveyancing and acquired presence, credibility and maturity.

The rewards will be equal to the very real challenge. Candidates should apply in writing, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae and quoting reference 2065F to Mrs. Indira Brown, Corporate Resourcing Group, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Telephone: 01-222 5555.

**Corporate Resourcing Group**  
Management Consultants - Executive Search

## Pensions Investment Consultants

Legal & General is Britain's largest pensions office. One of the reasons is the quality of service and advice we provide to our clients.

With the continued growth in the number of our Managed and Segregated Fund clients, we need to expand our team of Pensions Investment Consultants to maintain this quality. We are now looking, therefore, for two more Consultants to join us.

The right people will probably be aged between 28 and 40, with an investment background. Experience of dealing direct with clients at a senior level would be an advantage.

This position is based in our City of London Head Office at Temple Court. The starting salary will be more than competitive for the right man or woman. In addition, the appointment carries a wide range of fringe benefits including a company car and subsidised house purchase arrangements.

In the first instance, please write, giving brief career details, to:

John Weir,  
Legal & General Assurance (Pensions Management) Limited,  
Temple Court,  
11 Queen Victoria Street,  
London EC4N 4TP.

**Legal & General**

## Senior Treasury Executive

Croydon, Surrey

We are seeking an experienced person, who will report directly to the Group Finance Manager and be responsible on a day-to-day basis for the company's borrowing and currency requirements, acting within group policy and guidelines.

The successful candidate will be familiar with the facilities offered by the London money market and have experience of buying/selling currencies.

The position will also require occasional involvement in the administration of the treasury department and applicants will therefore need a working knowledge of UK banking and export/import procedures.

This is an interesting career opportunity within a large international company, the importance of which will be reflected in a competitive remuneration package.

Please write, in complete confidence, enclosing details of your experience to date and present salary to:

Mrs. L.C. Stuart, Personnel Officer, The Nestlé Company Ltd., St. Georges House, Croydon, Surrey CR9 1NR.

**Nestlé**

## SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY - INVESTMENT RESEARCH

Lombard Odier International Portfolio Management Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lombard Odier & Cie, a Swiss private bank, is expanding its London-based technology team.

Candidates, under 30 years of age, with advanced University degrees, who are interested and motivated in applying their specialist knowledge to the field of investment management are invited to write to:

**LOMBARD ODIER INTERNATIONAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT LIMITED**  
Portland House  
72-73 Basinghall Street  
London EC2V 5PB

The work will involve substantial travel in Europe, the USA and Japan.

## WEST MIDLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT CO-OPERATIVE APPRAISAL OFFICER up to £10,563

Post Ref. ED71  
The West Midlands County Council is seeking to appoint a Co-operative Appraisal Officer to join the small team working on industrial co-operatives in the Economic Development Unit. The main task of the appraisal officer would be to examine in detail proposals from existing or potential co-operatives and to prepare feasibility studies into the commercial viability of proposals for financial support.

It is likely that the candidate will be qualified to degree level with professional qualifications and experience in accounting, marketing, market research or another relevant business discipline. Experience of undertaking feasibility studies and a knowledge of industrial co-operatives would be particularly welcomed.

For an application form write or telephone, quoting post reference number, to: County Personnel Officer, West Midlands County Council, County Hall, 1 Lancaster Circus, Queensway, Birmingham B4 7D. Telephone No. 021-300 7855. A 24-hour telephone answering service is in operation. Closing Date: 27th May, 1983.

The County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

## A direct line to the executive shortlist

InterExec is the only organization specialising in the confidential promotion of senior executives. InterExec clients do not need to find vacancies or apply for appointments. InterExec's qualified specialist staff, and access to over 100 unadvertised vacancies per week, enable new appointments at senior levels to be achieved rapidly, effectively and confidentially.

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We are seeking top rate U.K. Lending specialists for two well-established and prestigious International Banks. Candidates are likely to be graduates who have undergone thorough U.S.-style credit training will have moved into a Marketing/Lending role. Specialist broad-based U.K. experience is required as is the ability to progress in an active ambitious team structure. Prospects are excellent.

F.X. Dealer c£16,000

An experienced fx trader, with a mature approach to dealing is sought by the London branch of a U.S. bank. Good all-round experience is required and this should preferably have been gained with a medium-sized but active name.

Young Dealer c£14,000 (neg)

An established and substantial European bank is seeking a young deposit dealer for its London branch. A specialist knowledge of sterling is required and experience in a futures market would be advantageous. Ability in a second European language is important and at least 3 years' experience with an active name will be sought.

Applications will be handled in strictest confidence by:—  
DUDLEY EDMUNDS

4 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, BLOMFELD STREET, LONDON EC6M 2NT  
01 598 5161

## International Project Finance Adviser

The Trafalgar House Group wish to recruit an international project adviser with a banking/financial background to join a small specialist team engaged in the procurement of project finance to support its international construction activities running at £250 million turnover per annum.

Applicants should have current experience of arranging project related finance utilising ECGD supported loans and commercial loans. In addition the applicant will be required to advise on contract bonds, political risk insurance, minimisation of foreign exchange exposure and other related matters. Salary and other benefits reflect the importance of the position. A company car is provided and overseas travel will be involved.

Location - London.

Apply in writing to: T. W. West, Finance Director, Civil International Specialist Structural Operations, Trafalgar House, 2 Chalkhill Road, Hammersmith International Centre, Hammersmith, London W6 8DN.

## WILLIAMS DE BROE

## Fixed Interest Sales

Having developed a highly successful gilt-edged department during the past 7 years, Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin & Co. now intend to extend their coverage to fixed-interest stocks. A person or small team with experience of the industrial loan stock and debenture markets is sought to work in conjunction with a strongly motivated team. Applicants should be seeking an opportunity to take responsibility for the development of new business. Fully competitive salary and incentive bonus plus excellent prospects of partnership are offered.

Apply in writing to:

P. W. Clarke,

WILLIAMS DE BROE HILL CHAPLIN & CO.,

P.O. Box 515, Finsers Hall, Austin Friars, London, EC2P 2HS.

## INSTITUTIONAL SALES — JAPANESE EQUITIES

A leading Merchant Bank wishes to appoint a City-based Institutional Salesman who has had considerable experience in selling Japanese equities to UK institutions. The ideal candidate will be between 27/35 years of age and have had similar experience in Stockbroking or other institutions. A competitive salary will be paid together with the usual banking fringe benefits.

Please contact: Peter Latham.

**Jonathan Wren** BANK RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
170 Bishopsgate - London EC2M 4LX - 01 623 1266



## COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL

Senior Accountant  
(Loans and Leasing)

Salary up to £12,174 per annum

An excellent opportunity exists for an Accountant or Financial Analyst to gain financial and management experience in a progressive local authority finance function. The successful applicant will head a small team which manages the City Council's loan debt of £250 million. Reporting directly to an Assistant City Treasurer, the position will involve acting as the main dealer in day to day transactions, which have a turnover of over £1,000 million in 1982/83, advising the City Treasurer on aspects of borrowing policy and financing strategy, preparation of loans fund accounts, and the negotiation of leasing facilities to fund a substantial programme. There is a further challenge to contribute to the development of computer loans systems.

Ideally the person appointed will be a graduate with an Economics or Business Studies degree and have several years experience in the Public Sector. However we will also consider someone who is conversant with the Local Authority Money and Leasing Markets and who can demonstrate the potential to develop beyond this post within the Department. To assist this, we are prepared to offer financial assistance to attend the Senior Officer's course at Liverpool Polytechnic to obtain CIPFA qualification.

Coventry is a pleasant city which is large enough to have all the major amenities. It has reasonably priced housing and allows access to nearby countryside and numerous places of interest.

A relocation allowance of up to £1,000 will be available if necessary.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Office, City Treasurer's Department, Council House, Eastside, Coventry CV1 5RR or telephone 0203 25555, ext. 2227.

Closing date for applications will be Friday 27th May 1983.

an equal opportunity employer

Group Legal Manager  
c £12,000 + car

Henry Boot & Sons PLC require a suitably qualified person to assist the Group Company Secretary with the legal administration of the Henry Boot Group of Companies and in particular property matters.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will be around 30 years of age, have proven experience in a similar environment and probably hold either a professional qualification or a law degree.

The Group is established in both the UK and overseas, and has a turnover in excess of £100 million with interests in Building, Civil Engineering, Home, Railway Engineering, Joinery, Plant, Property Development and Investments.

A company car will be provided together with Private Patient's Plan membership and Company Pension and Life Assurance Scheme.

Assistance will be given with removal expenses where necessary. Please apply in writing to: Alan M. Bamford, Group Personnel Director, Henry Boot & Sons PLC, Banner Cross Hall, Sheffield, S11 9PD

## Henry Boot

## FORFAITING

London Interstate Bank Limited, a consortium bank owned equally by two American banks and two Scandinavian banks, is seeking an experienced officer to establish and develop a forfaiting department within the bank. The successful candidate, who should have a minimum of two years' experience in forfaiting, will have responsibility for the day-to-day running of the department and will be actively involved in marketing.

Salary will be commensurate with age and experience and includes an attractive banking benefit package.

Please write, enclosing curriculum vitae, to:

David Lilley, Senior Manager  
LONDON INTERSTATE BANK LIMITED  
Bastion House, 140 London Wall  
London EC2Y 5DN

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Glasgow: 043-332 1592, 141 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1.

We are also specialists in 'Outplacement' for organisations, through our affiliated company Lander Corporate Services Limited.

## SENIOR OIL ANALYST

Candidates should possess a detailed knowledge of the oil industry and be able to produce in-depth reports on companies and the industry and communicate their ideas to clients. Interested applicants should contact:

John Toalster, Head of Research  
MONTAGU, LOEBL, STANLEY  
31, Sun Street, London EC2M 2QP  
Tel: 01-377 5243

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Marlon House, 71/74 Mark Lane, London E.C.3

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## TRADING DESK ASSISTANT

Suggested Age 18-23

Experienced person required whose duties would involve trading in non-American securities mainly UK and Dutch, also price service to New York.

Please write giving details of experience and salary expected to: A. Galloway, Bache Halsey Stuart Shields Inc, 1st Floor, Block G, Pensions House, Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3EP

## Accountancy Appointments

Accountants  
Financial and Management  
c £12,500 p.a. City

To meet the demands of rapid expansion a major UK multi-national finance and investment group requires three young, qualified accountants, ideally aged 25-30 and preferably graduates.

The successful candidates must be prepared to use initiative and work effectively in a multi-discipline team where duties are interchangeable. Working in a Head Office environment they will be in constant contact with senior executives worldwide. Exceptional opportunities for training and career progression are available to candidates determined to achieve success.

Mervyn Hughes  
Alexandre Tic  
(International) Ltd.  
Management Recruitment Consultants



Applications in confidence to:  
Brian G. Luxton, under ref: 6642,  
37 Golden Square,  
London W1R 4AN.  
Tel: 01-434 4091.

Financial controller  
(director designate)

London, c £25,000 + car



For a diversified UK industrial and trading group, turnover £75m, itself part of a large UK investment holding company.

Reporting to the new Executive Chairman, you will work closely with him in turning the group round. Routine accounting is in good shape and the emphasis will be on rationalisation, asset management, disposal and profit improvement.

A qualified accountant, you must be strong on management accounting with experience of acquisitions, disinvestment and of the controllership role in industry. You must have general management skills, a high energy level, an entrepreneurial streak and the ability to take pressure and some forceful colleagues in your stride. Three year rolling contract.

Résumés including a daytime telephone number to R C Henry, Executive Selection Division, Ref: H017.

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Fleetway House 25 Farringdon Street  
London EC4A 4AQ

## L. BLOOM (PLYWOOD) LIMITED

GROUP OF COMPANIES

COMPANY SECRETARY/FINANCIAL  
CONTROLLER

A suitably experienced person is required by this Group of Companies who are actively engaged in the Wood-Based Panel Products Trade and are a major group within the Meyer International PLC organisation.

The successful applicant, who will report directly to the Chairman and Managing Director, will be responsible for maintaining the secretarial functions and managing the company's finances as well as assisting in the day-to-day routine of the business.

The requirement is for a qualified accountant aged around 35 preferably with commercial experience. An excellent salary, company car and first-rate contributory pension scheme is offered to an enterprising and imaginative person who is also seeking an interesting and rewarding situation with a forward-looking Group of Companies.

Please apply in writing to:-

Geoffrey Myers  
L. BLOOM (PLYWOOD) LIMITED  
Forest House, 70-74 Green Lanes  
Palmers Green, London N13 6BE

CHIEF  
ACCOUNTANT  
West End c £14,000 + car

Our client, Video Arts Television Ltd., is an established and rapidly growing company specialising in the production of major high quality film and video series for world markets. They wish to recruit a qualified accountant to join the management team.

The successful candidate will be responsible to the finance director for the efficient management of the company's accounts department. In particular the chief accountant will supervise and develop the company's production budgeting and cost reporting systems, which are micro-computer based, and will be actively involved in the collecting and reporting of world wide distribution income and the management of cash resources.

The right person will be qualified, aged 28 to 35, a self-starter preferably with some knowledge of the industry and essentially with a positive attitude to the finance function. The salary is negotiable around £14,000 p.a. plus car, BUPA, and a pension scheme. Applicants should write in confidence with full details of previous experience and current salary quoting reference L1914 to John Hills at:-

Annan Impey Morrish  
Management Consultants  
40/43 Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1JJ



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Applications will be handled in strictest confidence by:-

Roger Parker FCA

4 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, BLOMFELD STREET, LONDON EC2M 5NT.  
01-598 2161

## Group Financial Accountant

West of London

to £16,000 + car

This UK company, part of a substantial worldwide group, has a turnover around £150m and is a major supplier of materials to the construction industry. Its activities are spread throughout Britain on some 200 sites, and the accounting organisation is centred at headquarters in the West of London. The person appointed will report to the Chief Accountant and manage the Group Financial Accounting Department comprising some 15 staff. The wide responsibilities will include the preparation of half-yearly accounts for the parent group and UK statutory accounts involving the consolidation of some 40 subsidiary

companies. Candidates, in their 30s, must have a sound professional accounting background followed by a successful period in industry. Salary is negotiable up to £16,000, with a car and good benefits package. Write for an application form or send brief CV to the address below quoting ref: AA518245/FT on both letter and envelope, and advising us of any other applications you have made to PA Personnel Services within the last twelve months. No details are divulged to clients without prior permission. Initial interviews will be conducted by PA Consultants.

## PA Personnel Services

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE. Tel: 01-235 6060 Telex: 27874



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ASSISTANT  
TO THE  
FINANCIAL  
CONTROLLER

to £12,000 + benefits

A highly profitable trading company in the West End wishes to recruit a newly-qualified chartered accountant. The company is a subsidiary of an international corporation.

Responsibilities will be diverse and include: involvement in the preparation and reporting of budgets and actual performance, various specific projects such as financial modelling enhancements and review of systems and internal controls.

It is anticipated that the scope of the role will expand rapidly in line with the individual's understanding of the company and its market.

Suitable applicants will be technically astute, innovative in a practical way with the ability to work well with line managers.

The job offers the ideal opportunity for someone wishing to move from the profession to a broad-based commercial environment.

Write enclosing a cv. to:

Box AS209  
Financial Times  
10 Cannon Street  
London EC4A 3BY

Finance Director  
Designate

From £15,000 : plus car  
West of London

This key appointment calls for a competent and experienced accountant to take full responsibility for the co-ordination of effective accounting, budgeting, costing and financial planning within a public company seeking improved profitability. Given success, a Board appointment should result within 12 months.

Candidates, probably aged over 35, should be qualified, with at least 5 years' practical experience in a responsible financial role preferably in another public company; the ability to communicate effectively with all levels of management is essential.

Salary negotiable over £15,000; other benefits including pension scheme, medical insurance, 5 weeks' holiday and relocation assistance where appropriate.

Please write with full details. These will be forwarded direct to our client. List on a separate sheet companies to whom your application should not be sent. Ref. B.1345.

This appointment is open to men and women.

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UNION CHAMBERS  
63 TEMPLE ROW  
BIRMINGHAM B2 5NS

Financial  
Administrator  
Paris c £14,000

A rapidly expanding International Computer Company require a highly motivated person to control their overall accounts function including the consolidation of accounts and coherent reports to strict deadlines, the review and upgrade of systems, and the co-ordination of a centralised Treasury Department for four subsidiaries located throughout Europe.

Ideally, candidates should be recently qualified IACA preferred with sound knowledge of computer systems, uninhibited by constant pressure and travel and have good organisational skills. The ability to communicate in European languages is not necessary but would prove an advantage. For further details or interview contact Julian Dunlop FCA (quoting ref. 002).

37 Eastcheap  
London EC3A  
Tel: 01-629 0344

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Port  
Management  
Accountant  
Middle East  
c. £24,000 p.a. + benefits

Our client, a large multi-discipline company with broad experience in the Middle East, requires a Management Accountant to oversee the finance function in a major port project. Aged 30-40, the successful candidate will be responsible with a staff of 30 for all financial transactions of the Port including preparation of budgets, management accounts, forecasts, consignees dues and billings.

Applicants must hold a Chartered or Cost and Management Accountant qualification with a number of years post qualification experience preferably in a shipping or freight forwarding environment.

Initially on bachelor status, the post may later be of marriage status. Benefits include company car, free medical cover, free fully furnished accommodation and a catering allowance.

Please write initially with full cv. to Confidential Reply Service, Ref. ASP 8717, Austin Knight Limited, London, W1A 1DS.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter to the Confidential Reply Supervisor

## Accountancy Appointments

### Finance Director

£25,000 Plus



Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co.

A MEMBER OF AMSA IN EUROPE AND ARTHUR YOUNG INTERNATIONAL

This is a key appointment within a substantial Scottish-based manufacturing and distribution company, part of a highly successful UK group.

Responsibility will be for the complete financial direction and control of the business, with an important involvement in broad commercial policy and decision making.

The requirement is for an MBA or a qualified accountant with a proven record of success in financial management. This will have been achieved at or near board level in

a fast moving, marketing-oriented company or group with well developed computerised financial planning and control systems.

Age: around 35.  
Location: Central Scotland.

Please write in complete confidence to Peter Craigie as adviser to the group.

Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co.  
Management Consultants,  
George House,  
50 George Square,  
Glasgow G2 1HR.

### CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

A major financial institution is seeking an ambitious chartered accountant who is both adaptable and perceptive. Aged between 25-30, post qualification experience is essential and auditing experience alone is unlikely to be sufficient. The job offers experience in re-thinking existing accounting and information systems in order to seek improvements using advanced computer technology. It demands a methodical and logical approach, linked to a strong interest in contributing to profit. Future prospects would include line management positions.

Remuneration Package  
c. £15,000

Location: South London

Please write with full CV, listing separately any companies to whom your application should not be sent, to:

The Financial Controller, Box A.8215,  
The Financial Times,  
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY.

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

(Designate)

c. £25,000 + car

Our client, a substantial company whose main activities are in international leasing, wishes to appoint a Finance Director (Designate). This is a new position, created by the rapid growth of the organisation. The person appointed could expect to be offered a place on the Board in due course. The company is based in the Home Counties.

The candidate will be responsible for the whole of the financial accounting in the UK and overseas and must be experienced in cash and currency management, and should have extensive knowledge of, and experience in, international money transactions, foreign currency exchange and the placing of money on the long and short term market.

Candidates should be qualified accountants with experience in commerce or industry. Preferred age, 35 to 40.

The starting salary will be in the region of £25,000, and other benefits are those associated with a major company. Please write or telephone for an application form, quoting reference number 1362 to:



Anne Kneil, Principal Consultant,  
Bender Hamlyn Fry & Co.,  
Executive Selection Division,  
8 St. Bride Street, London EC4A 4DA.  
Tel: 01-353 3020.

### Financial Controller

Age 30-36 c. £22,000 + Car

Working in one of the main operating companies of the Group, the Controller will report to the Commercial Director and run a substantial staff. The emphasis of the position will be upon financial management and reporting and development of systems and control information. The Controller will be expected to have a major impact on the business, both financially and commercially.

### Group Controllers

Age 30-36 c. £22,000 + Car

Members of a small Head Office team, the Controllers will have responsibility for the review of the operations and performance of subsidiary divisions. Working closely with senior management, the roles will be supportive, creative and strategic and require both strong financial skills and commercial awareness. The positions involve some overseas travel.

All positions are based in the London area and have excellent promotion prospects.

Applicants (male or female) for the positions should be graduate qualified accountants with industrial/commercial experience. Accountants with MBAs will be of particular interest to the group. Please write, enclosing a career history and day-time telephone number, to David Hogg FCA, quoting reference 1/2168.

EMA Management Personnel Ltd.  
Hulton House, 20/23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD  
Telephone: 01-242 7773 (24 hour).

### Financial Analyst

C. London

£15,000 + Car

Our client is a major household name in the leisure industry. Continued growth and development has created the need for a senior analyst to join the small head office financial team.

Candidates, aged 27-32, will be qualified accountants with at least three years post qualification experience including analysis, planning and financial modelling, gained within a large organisation. Familiarity with computers and previous liaison at senior management level are vital elements in the appointment.

The role is responsible for providing senior financial and non-financial management with a full service involving:

- ★ Financial reporting on the Group's, and competitors', current and past performance.
- ★ Acquisition appraisal and disinvestment studies in the U.K. and overseas.
- ★ Financial modelling, including the design, data collection and modelling of computer systems.
- ★ Providing a general advisory/analytical service in conjunction with the Financial Planning Manager.

The position demands a high standard of communicative skills, numeracy, clarity of thought and the ability to work efficiently to tight deadlines. For a high-calibre individual career advancement prospects are first-class.

Candidates should write to Nigel Hopkins FCA, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae, quoting ref 919 at 31 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HY.



Michael Page Partnership  
International Recruitment Consultants  
London New York  
Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow

### Finance Director

c. £45K.

London Area

A major British company with international interests requires a new Finance Director to join its main board. The company has a turnover in excess of £500M. It is a leading worldwide supplier of manufactured industrial products and is currently pursuing a programme of new market penetration with an exciting range of new products derived from its own R and D activities.

The role of the Finance Director is a particularly critical one at the present stage of the company's development and calls for an individual of exceptional stature and ability. Essential requirements include a university degree and an accountancy qualification, with at least 15 years' achievement-orientated experience in industry commerce including a minimum of 5 years in the top financial job within a substantial organisation. Operational experience in the manufacturing sector is highly desirable, and significant involvement with banking and financial

circles in the City is important. Some exposure to non-UK environments would also be useful. The age range envisaged is 38-48. The job carries full responsibility as the main board member for

finance and also covers a range of related administrative functions. The Finance Director will need to make an important personal contribution in the area of cash management.

The compensation package includes a top hat pension scheme, share-options, and the full range of other benefits normally attached to such a position in a large company (car, private medical cover etc). Relocation costs will be met where necessary.

As the targeted starting date is 1 July, please send a full C.V. as soon as possible to the address below quoting ref FT16 on the envelope, with a cover letter including names of any companies to which you would not wish your C.V. to be submitted.

A.W.H. Rankin,  
5/9 Mandeville Place, London W1M 6AE.

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Rate £31.50  
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centimetre

### Financial Director

Central London

From £18,000 + car

A rapidly growing group with interests in the retail, property and service sectors seek a commercially-oriented Financial Director to take charge of its entire financial operations.

The successful candidate will have qualified with a major firm of Chartered Accountants and have at least four years' post-qualification experience, ideally in an fmcc environment. Experience of micro-computer applications, systems development and a flexible business approach are vital, as is the ability to guide the business through the next stage of its development.

The role will involve:

- Total financial responsibility for the varied operations of the group and the maintenance of strict financial controls.
- The provision of succinct, relevant management information.
- The ability to initiate changes to keep pace with the rapid development of the business.
- Working closely with the Managing Director on day-to-day operating decisions and future expansion plans.

The position offers an exciting and challenging career to a candidate who will play a major role in a small, entrepreneurial management team. Please send concise career details in confidence to RCS Consultants, advisers to the Group, at 10 Cheval Place, London SW7.

RCS  
Consultants

### AMES ADVERTISING

6 CHART WAY, REIGATE, SURREY RH2 0NZ. Tel: REIGATE (07372) 22219

### Group Financial Appointment

A major industrial company whose main interests lie in the supply of materials to the construction industry needs to fill an important vacancy. The post will be based

GROUP INTERNAL AUDITOR

The role of internal auditor has been established throughout the company's subsidiaries, and a suitably qualified person is now sought to head up the function at group level.

Extensive professional experience is an essential requirement. The ideal candidate will also have worked for some while in a large commercial or industrial organisation, preferably where there is a considerable degree of local autonomy. He or she will need to demonstrate a

strong combination of commercial and administrative talents and the ability to establish good liaison with management at all levels.

All applications will be forwarded direct to our client, therefore please enclose a separate list of companies to which your application should not be sent. Please apply with full curriculum vitae to:

AMES ADVERTISING (Ref 38/7A)  
6 CHART WAY, REIGATE, SURREY RH2 0NZ

c. £17,500 + Car

### Financial Accountant

Reinsurance Company

c. £12,500 + benefits

City

Our client, a subsidiary of a major U.S. insurance group, wishes to appoint a recently qualified Accountant to strengthen its existing team.

Reporting to the Chief Accountant, the successful applicant will initially assume responsibility for aspects of financial reporting, whilst gaining exposure to company systems. Once this has been achieved, the Accountant will also undertake systems investigations, including computer controls.

The person appointed is likely to be a Chartered Accountant seeking a first commercial role. Personal qualities will include self-motivation and the ability to communicate at all levels. Experience of computerised accounting systems is essential.

Interested applicants should send their c.v. to Susan Warner listing separately any companies to whom they should not be forwarded.

Mervyn Hughes Advertising

37 Golden Square, London W1R 4AL.

### INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

PROPERTY

LONDON BASED

Age 26/32 — Salary c. £16,000

An International Real-Estate Development and Investment group requires a financial controller to join the multi-national management team to:

- (a) control group accounting
- (b) analyze development proposals and structure new projects
- (c) create and refine accounting systems
- (d) control company secretarial and taxation affairs

Candidates should be qualified accountants, preferably with a degree, with relevant experience in commerce or the profession. A knowledge of foreign languages, particularly French, and experience in micro-computers would be advantageous.

Applications in confidence to Box A8219  
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

### FINANCIAL CONTROLLER AND COMPANY SECRETARY

London

Excellent Neg Salary + Car

Our client is a well established family owned distributor and marketer of timber and allied products to a wide variety of wholesale and retail outlets throughout the UK. With turnover approaching £20M and employing about 200, the company is now looking to continued growth in its industry sector.

To play a significant part in this growth, now sought is a suitably qualified and experienced accountant, reporting to Joint Managing Directors, to:

- Head up the total financial function
- Liaise with professional advisers and bankers
- Carry out a full range of secretarial functions
- Present meaningful computerised management accounts
- Direct and motivate a staff of 30

Salary is entirely negotiable, and benefits include a potential opportunity for a Board appointment for the right applicant in due course.

Candidates, male or female, please telephone Lyn Mewes, Recruitment Secretary, on Windsor (07535) 67175 (24 hrs) for further details and an application form quoting Ref. DB/439.

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About the company – highly regarded for its engineering products (years of experience), turnover £5m, part of a quoted group. A survivor. Now projecting renewed growth particularly in N. America.

About you – thirty-three plus and a qualified accountant. On top of the controller role. At ease with standard costs and O/H recovery. Succinct communicator. Strong personality. Energy to burn. Totally committed. They'd like you to have a sense of humour as well!

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We have been retained by a UK Insurance Company who are American owned to select a Professionally Qualified Accountant to join their Surrey based Financial Accounting Division.

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Reporting to the Company's Chief Accountant, the successful candidate will become a key member of the Management Team, and be expected to provide a significant contribution in terms of Corporate Development, Financial Appraisal and Computer Systems.

The position offers the scope and opportunity to secure a challenging and rewarding career with a company committed to expansion. Suitable applicants are likely to be aged around 30 and preferably possess an insurance background, although the more essential components are ambition and a desire for total efficiency.

An attractive Fringe Benefits Package is offered which includes a Contributory Pension Scheme, Free Medical Expenses, Permanent Health and Life Insurance Schemes.

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The appointee, as a senior member of a large division, will assume a broad range of responsibilities embracing systems development, accounting, budgeting, financial control, administration and staff management in an area of crucial importance to the international development of the Bank. Prospects for further advancement within the division are first-class.

Applications are invited from graduate Chartered Accountants trained by a major professional firm and with some experience of auditing financial institutions.

Please write in confidence, explaining how you meet the requirements and quoting reference 4642/L, to N. P. Halscy, 165 Queen Victoria Street, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD.



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They now require a skilled Financial Controller to manage their financial resources and play a key role in their top management team. Reporting to the Managing Director, you will be responsible for all financial, budgetary control, treasury and company secretarial matters.

The position calls for a Chartered Accountant, aged around 35, with several years commercial experience including the preparation of accounts, variance analysis, forecasting and the development of computer based systems.

There is an attractive remuneration package including a car, with good prospects of a Board appointment.

Please send concise personal, career and salary details, quoting ref: S2003 to: W S Gilliland, Executive Selection Division,

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### Treasury Operations Manager

Central London

c£22,000 + car + benefits

Our client is a US public company with world-wide interests in the pharmaceutical industry. An impressive growth record over recent years has created the need for a specialist to be responsible for global treasury operations.

Previous treasury experience with an accountancy background is essential and familiarity with micro-computers is desirable.

This challenging role covers all aspects of the treasury function including: cash management, currency planning, tax planning and constant liaison with international operating units – consequently an element of overseas travel is involved. Furthermore, as supervisor of a small team the manager will be expected to perform administrative duties critical to managing the global treasury operations.

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Candidates should write enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae to Philip Cartwright ACMA, quoting ref: 918 at 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.



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audit and review of current practice – and contributing significantly to the on-going development of an effective tax planning service for all UK operations. The importance of communications, both internal and external, to the success of this role naturally places a high premium on the ability to 'sell' ideas positively at all levels up to the most senior.

This exciting development role offers excellent prospects of advancement to an influential position within a function which is certain to expand considerably over the next few years.

To apply, either ring for an application form or write with full personal, career and salary details to Annabel Bayly, Hewlett-Packard Limited, Nine Mile Ride, Easthampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 3LL. Tel: Crowthorne (034 46) 3100.



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required to assist an existing group in teaching Accounting and Finance to the Cranfield School of Management's successful post-graduate and post-experience programmes.

Ideally, the person appointed will be both professionally qualified and hold a degree. Business experience and teaching experience are desirable. The post will require the ability to work effectively with business men and to conduct investigatory type research.

Salary according to age, qualifications and experience, will be within a range rising to £13,505 pa (currently under review). Assistance may be given with relocation expenses.

For an application form and further information, contact: The Personnel Department, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Bedford MK43 0AL. Tel: Bedford (0234) 750111, ext. 3336.

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Telephones: 01-247 9431 (24 hour service) quoting Ref: 0907/FT. Reed Executive Selection Limited, 122 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7PT.

This vacancy is open to both male and female candidates  
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This appointment will appeal to chartered accountants, preferably aged 28 to 35, now ready to contribute to corporate decision making. Successful broadly based accounting experience in manufacturing industry, and familiarity with computer systems are essential.

Responsibility will be to the Managing Director for the financial function of a £15m. turnover company, part of a British public group. The company is a nationally known manufacturer of consumer durables, an acknowledged leader in its market sector.

Main emphasis will be on co-ordinating and further developing financial, cost, and management accounting, and the computer department as well as advising on the formulation of business strategy.

Starting salary from £15,000; quality car; usual executive benefits. Relocation help. Please send details – in confidence – to E. I. Clark ref. B.75266.

This appointment is open to men and women.



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The successful applicant must be capable of leading the activities of a young but experienced accounting team and supporting staff to provide a comprehensive financial and management accounting service to group directors and management.

He (she) will be responsible for the preparation of complex consolidated accounts for the group's international operations which demands a sound, in-depth knowledge of financial and management accounting principles, relevant law and standard accounting practice. There will be a special involvement in the planning and implementation of taxation strategy and the negotiation of computations; in the feasibility study and funding of capital projects, together with medium term planning forecasts. The group is in the process of implementing a comprehensive and integrated financial accounting system based upon a HP 3000 series 40 computer.

Location will be in the group's modern headquarters at Slough. In addition to basic salary (£17/18,000) the remuneration package will include a company car, profit sharing participation, attractive pension and life assurance cover and executive dining facilities.

Suitably qualified applicants in the age range of 35/45 should write in strict confidence giving concise details of age, relevant experience, qualifications and current salary to R. E. Miller, Personnel Manager, Slough Estates plc, 234 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4EE.

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Applicants are likely to be qualified accountants with exposure to computerised systems and in-depth experience of audit functions gained ideally – but not essentially – within the insurance industry. Previous experience in a control function is advantageous.

This is a career appointment with excellent promotion prospects. A generous benefits package includes subsidised mortgage, non-contributory pension, free lunches, flexitime working and re-location expenses where applicable.

Applications with full details to Bernard L. Taylor, quoting Ref. 6640 or telephone for a personal history form.

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## THE MANAGEMENT PAGE: Marketing

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

## The 'no-name' brand war

John Davies on West Germany's cigarette market

THE WEST GERMAN cigarette market is enough to make anyone gasp. For a start, the government last year drastically increased the tobacco sales tax. Then cheap "no-name" cigarettes, some produced abroad, captured a rapidly rising market share. To top it all, Reemtsma, the market leader, has reacted boldly by touching off a price war and left its rivals flummoxed.

Reemtsma executives are charting the course of the battle in the peaceful surroundings of their modern headquarters, with garden views, in an elegant residential suburb of Hamburg. But they wear the trappings and display the reticence of tacticians still in the midst of a tough campaign in which a lot is at stake.

At the same time, they assert that their strategy and all its repercussions have been carefully thought out. The initial stage of the strategy appears to have been successful, they declare, and remains now to be followed through.

The related problems of sales tax and "no-name" cigarettes brought about some drastic changes in the market in the second half of last year. The government then in power—the Social Democrats and Free Democrats under Chancellor Helmut Schmidt—raised the tobacco tax by 39 per cent as part of a solution to its budget problems. Smokers, however, balked at the higher prices and turned increasingly to the host of new packs produced by small companies, including Austrians, largely sold in grocery supermarkets.

In the next five months, the "no-names," as they have been widely dubbed, captured as much as 40 per cent of cigarette sales in some supermarkets. As one Reemtsma executive pointed out, the "no-names" sold 413m cigarettes in 1981, but 4.13bn—10 times as many—in 1982, mostly in the second half of the year, after the tax rise.

Reemtsma, unlike some other major manufacturers, relies on supermarkets for a sizeable share of its sales. So, the advance of the "no-names" was relatively more of a threat to Reemtsma than to some of its rivals, which were heavily on vending machine sales.

All this took place against the background of an overall



decline in the market. Statistics from cigarette tax authorities show that 112.7m cigarettes were sold (and taxed) in West Germany last year, down 13.5 per cent. The tobacco tax rise backed on the government, producing only about two-thirds of the desired revenue.

Reemtsma launched a counter-attack on the "no-names" by slashing the price of its hitherto little-smoked brands, West and Juno, each of which had less than 1 per cent of the market. West, which had long been published with the image of a muscle-bound truck driver, was cut in January from DM 3.80 (\$1.56) to DM 3.30 for a pack of 20. Juno was brought down in February to DM 3.15 for a 19-cigarette pack and was backed up by advertising which showed a band offering a cigarette to various people in a moderate hurry (for example, a young lady laden with parcels and an appreciative, poorly shaven waiter).

The other main manufacturers quickly followed suit with cut-price brands supported by

heavy advertising, amid dire protestations that price-cutting would be self-defeating and would ruin everyone's profits. First indications are that the cut-price brands have won perhaps 20 per cent of the market, West gaining as much as 8 per cent and Philip Morris's L and M perhaps 4 per cent with Juno, Overstolz, Gold Dollar and Chesterfield scurrying along behind. The gains have come from the "no-names," which have been pushed back from about 10 per cent to about 7 per cent of the market, but also—and there's the rub—from the dealer, established and more profitable brands.

Reemtsma executives are reluctant to talk at this stage about any current market shares or trends, pointing out that it is still too soon to get a proper picture and that deliveries to the trade are not an accurate short-term reflection of sales.

But Reemtsma is adamant that its strategy has been correct (and the consequences of it

foreseen), that the strategy appears to be working, that it is not losing money on any brands and that the next phase in its plans are stabilisation of the market shares of the "classical" higher-priced brands.

"We had no other choice," says one Reemtsma executive. "Our aim was to build a dam against the no-names and we have achieved this objective." Wolf Schlemmer, Reemtsma's cigarette marketing chief, believes that cut-price brands will continue as a market segment, acting as a buffer between the "no-names" and the top brands. His company, however, does not believe that all the cut-price brands of the main manufacturers will survive. The "no-names" while remaining as a market segment, will have a diminishing share of the total.

The "classical" higher-priced cigarettes, he believes, will continue to occupy the largest market segment and Reemtsma will give high priority to nurturing the market share of these cigarettes, although perhaps at a lower level than last year.

The company has the West German rights for Peter Stuyvesant, as well as Ernte and R6. All were among the top 10 brands last year, with Stuyvesant taking 7 per cent of the total market, Ernte 6.4 per cent and R6 4.5 per cent. By contrast, R6's HB brand was the top seller with 17.9 per cent, followed by Philip Morris's Marlboro with 13.8 per cent.

"We must make clear to consumers that a higher priced product is worth the money," says Schlemmer. The top brands must therefore reinforce their clear-cut profile and positive image.

However, Reemtsma does not plan to intensify the volume of advertising of its top brands. There is always the danger, as one executive put it, of "overkill through overspending."

Schlemmer says that the themes of the advertising will not change, except perhaps in marginal ways, advancing strong arguments about the quality of the products. He believes that the present Peter Stuyvesant advertising campaign, highlighting sporting activity and maturity, has had a positive reaction.

Sorting the mail when the postman called used to be a question of sifting the letters from the bills. These days it is more often a case of wading through unsolicited promotional material, or junk mail as it hates to be called.

Of course some mail is more junk than others—householders without gardens don't want to hear about garden tools in the same way that senior citizens are unlikely to be fascinated by baby clothes catalogues landing on the doorstep.

Things are changing fast in the world of direct mail. This growth industry is growing up fast and has lately been seen to be putting its house in order, setting up regulatory bodies and generally giving itself an air of respectability perhaps lacking in the early days when all unsolicited material was regarded as a plague. Increasingly, sophisticated methods of compiling potential customer lists, for instance, mean sharper targeting of mail promotions. Next week, the fifth Direct Marketing Fair in London, the biggest yet, demonstrates that the UK has well and truly caught the American habit and—in case there was any doubt—it seems to be here to stay.

Direct marketing covers a host of client-to-customer shots besides direct mail. Among the 70 or so exhibitors will be representatives of direct response advertising (such as TV and Sunday newspaper supplements), off-the-page Press advertisements, telephone marketing, door-to-door distribution, known in trade circles as the "knock and drop" system. Exhibitors include mailing houses, computer bureaux,

## The direct sell

By Feona McEwen

creative agencies, printers, envelope manufacturers, specialist direct marketing agencies.

Direct mail accounts for the bulk of all direct marketing. It now stands third in the advertising revenue table behind the traditional favourites,

on average each household received about 7 per week or seven places in 10 weeks. Signs are that this year's tally will be higher still.

These figures come from the 10 week old Direct Mail Preference Scheme, an organisation set up to aid both con-



sumers (pro- and anti-) and mailers. You go to them if you wish to receive no such mail, or your name is then deleted from all subscribers' lists.

Equally, consumers can request literature on specific subjects. "There seems to be no inherent consumer resistance to direct mail but rather to mail that is badly targeted and poorly presented," says its spokesman, David Vickers, in the U.S., where admittedly the schemes are different and have been going some 11 years, the ratio of consumers who prefer to receive against those who prefer

to receive is 3 to 1. So far, the UK scheme reports 4,300 deletions and 520 add-ons.

The Direct Marketing Fair, which takes place at Kensington Exhibition Centre on Monday and Tuesday between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, is seeking to attract marketing men generally, particularly small businesses for which such advertising, they say, can be highly economical.

Another newly-formed independent body is the Direct Mail Sales Bureau, now in its eighth month, which sells the concept of direct mail in much the same way as the Radio Marketing Bureau promotes radio advertising, but also helps customers put campaigns together, predominantly in consumer markets. "We're aiming to take money away from the mainline press and television media," says chief executive Michael Schlegman. Up to now direct mail—regarded as below-the-line advertising—has been heavily used by clients either themselves or through specialist agencies, rather than going through their above-the-line consumer agencies. The tide is now turning and larger agencies are beginning to recognise the need to develop specialist skills in this area along with sales promoting activities.

Also on display at the fair will be the Consumer Location System, which helps mailers identify consumers most likely to be interested in their products or services.

This works by analysis products and services through data from the Target Group Index, thus discovering in which sort of residential neighbourhood its purchasers live.

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Feona McEwen

## Anomalies of TV viewing figures

IF recent television talk is to be believed, homes around the country are echoing to the sound of switch-off buttons. Viewers, increasingly disillusioned with programming or enamoured of their VCRs or whatever, are falling out of love with the live small screen—so we are told.

But according to recent research by London Weekend Television's Bernard Bennett, who sits on the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board's (BARB) technical and management committees, the case is grossly overstated. The measurement gap, as he sees it, is the result of inadequacies in the present system of audience measurement which BARB acknowledges and is busy remedying. New

technological developments—VCRs, remote control, new channels—have complicated an already complicated issue. The matter is under review and more accurate viewing statistics are promised.

Some of the factors influencing the viewing figures include "zapping" (flipping between channels), fast becoming a national hobby often in advertising time; more channels and remote control facilities have encouraged this.

The video cassette recorder has added further to the confusion. Last year's meteoric growth to around 51 per cent penetrating of all TV viewing homes caught BARB, as one pundit put it,

with its trousers down. Originally the system completely failed to register any VCR viewing. These factors even helped to create the measurement gap in viewing figures.

The truth of the matter, maintains LWT, is that, allowing for such measurement gaps the average British adult has been viewing a total of 10 minutes less (all channels) per night—which still leaves a sizeable 34 hours average each night to attract the advertiser.

Nevertheless, the pattern is indeed changing and will do so even more with the advent of cable and satellite TV. This will continue to alter the ratings picture among the major existing channels.

TV audiences are certainly not as sizeable as they once were and the spread is different, a fact of which advertisers are increasingly aware. Yet, LWT points out, the successes—the right product advertised in the appropriate media—go on. It cites BARB's figures for the Target Group Index, the Poptel Chef food mixer.

LWT continues to soothe advertiser nerves by maintaining that the measurement gaps account for at least 25 to 33 per cent of the drop in viewers and this is largely artificial. The drop should be rectified it says when the technical solutions to audience measurement have been found and implemented.

Feona McEwen

## BLOCKER EXPLORATION 1981 N.V. PRESS RELEASE REGARDING SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30, 1983

A Special General Meeting of the Shareholders of Blocker Exploration 1981 N.V. (a public limited liability company) will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, May 30, 1983 at the offices of the company, 62, Willemstraat, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles on Monday, May 30, 1983 at 10.00 a.m. Curacao time. It is requested that the shareholders of the company who are entitled to attend the meeting, please to attend the meeting on May 30, 1983. The meeting of May 30, 1983, will be held at the offices of the company, 62, Willemstraat, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles on Monday, May 30, 1983 at 10.00 a.m. Curacao time. It is requested that the shareholders of the company who are entitled to attend the meeting, please to attend the meeting on May 30, 1983. The meeting of May 30, 1983, will be held at the offices of the company, 62, Willemstraat, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles on Monday, May 30, 1983 at 10.00 a.m. Curacao time. 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## THE ARTS

New York City Ballet/Clement Crisp

## The peerless legacy of George Balanchine

As George Balanchine's life ebbed to its close at the end of April the artists of his company seemed determined to proclaim the undying power of his ballets. The New York City Ballet opened its 1983 season in the days just preceding his death, with performances of such masterworks as *Concerto Barocco*, *Symphony in C* and *Divertimento No. 15* that were magnificent—Balanchine's quest for an American classic ideal beautifully realised in them.

At the matinee immediately following the choreographer's demise, *Kammermusik No. 2* was given with a rigorous force that told not only of his dancers' determination to honour his work at a moment of intense grief, but even more poignantly of the possibilities of the academic language as extended and illuminated by Balanchine's genius.

In a brief curtain speech before the matinee, Lincoln Kirstein, architect with Mr Balanchine of this peerless ensemble, said very simply: "I don't have to tell you that Mr B is with Mozart and Chabokovsky and Stravinsky. I do want to tell you how much he valued this audience, this marvelous audience. . . . You kept us going for 50 years, and will for another 50. One thing he didn't want was for this to be interrupted. We will proceed."

It is an essential fact of Balanchine's work that we may everywhere see signs for the future. Indications of the potential of the *dance d'ecole* which his heirs understand. The logic of his choreographies, that sense of ordered progress which is the hallmark of his creativity, holds every hope for the future of his company.

The interpretations of *Concerto Barocco*, of the *Bizet Symphony* and the *Mozart Divertimento*, showed NYCB at its most lustrous, dancing with a bravura which is ever sustained by formal dignity. And how piercing, because sprung entirely from the music, the theatrical effect of this dancing. The pure logic of the movement is like sublime geometry as, in the slow movement of the Bach concerto, Sean Lavery partnered Heather Watts, then left the stage as Kyra Nichols entered to travel the dance area in a diagonal, her appearance a thematic

response to his departure. The two women united briefly as the twin voices of the violin moved on, then Mr Lavery returned to Miss Watts, and Miss Nichols left. Divine simplicity, absolute rightness, music seen.

In the *Bizet Symphony*—with Suzanne Farrell grandly impetuous in Peter Martins' arms during the adagio—the dance was refracted through the score and the physical crescendo of the finale, with its 52 dancers marshalled in glittering squadrons of joyous energy, was like a drill-parade of angels. In *Divertimento No. 15* the variations for its five ballerinas—Elyse Borge, Maria Calegari, Lourdes Lopez, Kyra Nichols and Stephanie Saland—were exquisite and true as characterizations of womanhood as they are from a Mozart opera. If *Fiordiligi* or *Donna Anna* or *Zerlina* danced, it would be thus.

In other works on view in these programmes, as previous interest attended the first NYCB appearances of Valentina and Leonid Kozlov, who quit the *Bolshoy Ballet* during its Los Angeles season in 1978 and have since joined City Ballet. The autumn season of Jerome Robbins' *Four Seasons* served for their attractive debut, the ecstasies and racings of the bacchanal an apt setting for their musical manner. The other variations—Kyra Nichols and Daniel Duell as Spring, Stephanie Saland and Joseph Duell as Summer, Lisa Hess, Peter Frame and Paul Boos as Winter—were admirably, wonderfully good.

A Robbins' piece new to me was the *Chamber Works* made for last year's Stravinsky Festival. Using five short scores—the *Septet*, *Ragtime*, the *Concerto for 13 Instruments* linked with the three pieces for clarinet solo, and the *Octet*—Robbins provides dances by turns plotless and jovial.

The jokes in the *Ragtime* for Heather Watts and Bart Cook are matters of jazz-age speed and paired-danced eccentricities; in the *Octet*, four men appear as acrobats indulging in merry games and, swathed in black draperies, suddenly turn into antic ink-blot. The most impressive section is the trio for Kyra Nichols, Calegari (newly promoted principal) and blossomed into a major artist).



Stephanie Saland with members of the cast of Divertimento No. 15

Sean Lavery and Mel Tomlinson, using the concerto and clarinet pieces, whose final solos draw succinct and haunting portraits of three exceptional performers.

Sean Lavery was also exultantly brilliant in John Taras' *Souvenir de Florence* which I admired during the 1981 Chabokovsky Festival. A ballet of sometimes Chekhovian moods, it received dancing of superb assurance and understated but telling sensibility from a large cast.

And to tell more about the future of NYCB there were the annual performances by the School of American Ballet, NYCB's nursery, at the Juilliard Theatre. Each year this is a showcase for young aspirants, for new choreography and the revival of works not in the current company repertoire.

Peter Martins' *The Magic Flute*, Joseph Duell's *Credence du monde*, were originally seen at School performances. Last

year Helgi Tomasson made his first choreographic essay there, and now he has created a much more assured divertimento to Messiaen's ballet music (numbers from *Isoline* with the addition of two dances from *Les Deux Pigeons*). This *Ballet d'Isoline* is clean in craftsmanship and, naturally enough, strongly influenced by Balanchine. What better model, what more attractively youthful dancing, could one wish!

This year's crop of boys is full of talent: Peter Boal, Michael Byars, Pablo Savoye, and Joseph Marlborough (who led an ebullient performance of *Western Symphony* later in the programme) are very promising, and in a male quartet Mr Tomasson paid tribute to the elegance and technical clarity of masculine training at the School.

The *Glinka Valse Fantaisie* which Balanchine made in 1967 was well danced by Elyse Borge, Karz and Michael Byars, and as

testimony to SAB's continuing concern with the Bournonville school (itself an important contributory factor to the training that Balanchine received in Petersburg) the *Kermesse in Bruges* duet was produced by Stanley Williams.

And to make an Englishman in New York feel at home—especially one used to the Royal Ballet School's annual shows—a group of traditional dances were staged by the RBS's Ronald Smedley and Bob Parker. They were given alert, bouncy performances, and in a minute the young Edwin Mota and his partner showed such seriousness and distinction of manner that for once the dignity of this aristocrat among dances was not minimised.

The New York City Ballet is scheduled to appear at Covent Garden between August 22 and September 3 at the start of a European tour which will take the company also to Copenhagen and Paris.

## The Trojan War Will Not Take Place Lyttelton

Michael Coveney

Christopher Fry's version of Jean Giraudoux's *La guerre de Troie n'aura pas lieu* (1935) is better known as *Trojan Women*, a title that is both nearer than the literal translation and taken from the opening doom-laden dialogue between Andromache and Cassandra. Hector has returned from battle, but Troy's uneasy peace is under siege.

In pre-war Europe, the tiger was certainly replete at the gates, but the play never surfaced in England until 1955, when Tynan pronounced it "the final comment on the superfluity of war, and the highest peak in the mountain-range of modern French theatre." That judgment, on the evidence of Harold Pinter's *Bacchic National Theatre* production in the Lyttelton appears both quaint and over-generous.

I once saw an amateur production at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall, an imposing little arena marked off by huge stones with the sea as a natural backdrop. It was the perfect setting. The Trojan ramparts and turrets of Elean Dier's design have force, a more contrived feel to them, but sufficient monumental impact to contain both the serious moral debate and its charade-like ornamentation.

The war veteran Hector has seen enough of war to disdain its inevitability in the fabric of men's conduct. The problem, though, is that Helen has been snatched from the sea and the Greeks by Paris. Hector wants to shut the city gates, appease

the wrath of the approaching Greeks by welcoming them and tolerating a few insulting skirmishes, before handing back Menelaus's beautiful wife. She is a haggardly, silver vision of Peace drifts on to undermine Hector's chances of success, but the plot continues with the arrival of the drunken Ajax and the cynically wise Ulysses to precipitate the conflict. They do so, after all the talking, in an accidental fashion, and after Hector's claim of sexual purity between Paris and Helen has been apparently disproved by the testimony of one of his own sailors. A second vision, Iris, descends on her rainbow to give the gods' view of petty human strife.

None of this strikes me as comic or as resonant as, say, the *Orestes* or *Helen* of Euripides, a much more incisive satirist than either Giraudoux or Fry. Nor does the discussion of ethical and moral issues of the contemporary state in the disguise of classical antiquity carry the excitement or pressure of Anouilh's *Antigone*.

One of the main problems in this production is the colourless interpretation of Hector by Martin Jarvis, a brisk and usually fine actor who conveys little of anguish or ravaged experience in the great set speeches. His bitter oration for dead warriors is as blankly delivered as his side of the debate with Ulysses. Barry Foster's Ulysses, on the other hand, provides some sinuously varied prose speaking; he finds bite and rhythm in Fry's stilled

but carefully phrased language. The first entrance of Nicola Pagett's Helen achieves the desired effect of taking your breath away. She is a stunning, ambiguous enchantress, poised delicately between planes of destructive flirtatiousness and inexplicable mystery. After the seductive toying with young Trolius (Julian Firth), she gives the kiss intended for him to the hypnotised Paris (David Rintoul) and then immediately recoils with a glacial shudder. The performance is full of such subtle embroidery.

The production as a whole, however, never recovers from the ponderous, emphatic pace of the opening scenes. I find nothing here of what Tynan described as "majestic gloom and crystalline wit." Brewster Mason's Priam is a solid patriarch, Ronald Hine's international lawyer a baffling study in hypocritical pragmatism. Derek Newark's Ajax a mercifully boisterous drunk. But everyone else stands around in the soft colours of Robin Fraser's costumes looking bemused and slightly awkward.

Some high class dissonances have been composed by Harrison Birtwistle and the fine lighting is by Mick Hughes. But the play's thesis (or rather Ulysses's) that war is an endemic and predestined fact of conduct between nations sparked off by the unprovoked interference of hostages to Fortune remains a cerebral argument unactivated by emotional frenzy.



Nicola Pagett and Martin Jarvis

## Swan Lake/Covent Garden

Clement Crisp

*Swan Lake*, undammable, undrainable, will draw full houses wherever it is played. And better the Peter Wright/Galina Samsova recension for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet than almost any other I know, by reason of its potent romantic melancholy—the drama here shown in some haunted Bohemian fastness—and its neat meshing of the dramatic action.

That the production provides a proper framework for a strong ballerina performance was stressed on Tuesday when Marion Tait was seen as Odette/Odile, with Alain Dubreuil as her doomed lover. Miss Tait's Odette is touched with a real dignity. The dance is shown with commendable purity of means, the choreography everywhere respected, and underfunded by mannerism, and the characterisation that emerges has a propriety, a

directness that is very attractive. This is not a Swan Queen of impassioned lyricism; rather does the role grow in stature through Miss Tait's willingness to phrase in clean spans of movement and use her natural physical voice—a kind of mezzo-soprano—with an underlying dark timbre—to sing of Odette's plight.

She was fortunate in that the otherwise hectic, gabbled tempi adopted by the conductor, Bramwell Tovey, for the first lake-side scene were abated for the pas de deux and Odette's solo. The cygnets, the swan maidens at their entry, were brought on at a brisk trot, and won our approval for sheer fleetness of foot. Poor Chabokovsky was nowhere honoured: it would be a salutary experience for all concerned to hear the expansive, loving way in which Yevgeny

Kolobov and the Kirov orchestra demonstrate their understanding of the score's riches.

Miss Tait's Odile was a bold and imperious creation. There were no hesitations, no half-measures in the interpretation: evil triumphed through the demonic momentum of her dancing, and Alain Dubreuil's intelligent, well-mannered Siegfried stood not a chance. In sum, an admirable performance, with the drama given full emotional life. Incidental pleasures included the three princesses in the ballroom act—Shirilyn Kennedy, Karen Donovan, and the buoyant, darting Sandra Madgwick—and the enthusiasm of the entire cast.

How well the Sadler's Wells artists respond to the challenges of this staging, and how well it shows them off.

## Mitridate, Re di Ponto/Schwetzingen Festival

Andrew Clark

It is difficult to imagine a more persuasive case for early Mozart opera than the Zurich Opera's new production of *Mitridate, Re di Ponto*, which has just opened this year's Schwetzingen Festival. The remarkable talent of the 14-year-old prodigy does not require special pleading now, any more than it did in Milan in 1770, but the extremes of Italian opera seria do need an inspired touch if the genre is to make an appealing case on stage.

The plot, tracing the usual trials and longings of regal stereotypes in the safely distant classical past, boils down to a father and two sons squabbling over a woman. With the customary happy ending, it serves as a convenient vehicle for the music which, apart from one sublime duet at the end of Act II, is strung along an evenly-proportioned line of aria and recitative. Within these limits, however, Mozart's handling of the music is more than just a clever copying of the style of the day. His facility at conveying emotion through the orchestra is already well pronounced. The best examples are Sifare's Act II aria "Lungi da te, mio bene," which has a beautiful horn solo,

and Mitridate's dismissal of Aspasia, also in Act II, where real fury bubbles through the strings. Mozart's shaping of the words, in both aria and recitative, is also dramatically inspired, as this performance confirmed; but it never detracts from the ease with which the composer shows off the vocal abilities of his cast.

Aspasia's soprano arias, in particular, are fendishly difficult, and the role of Mitridate, originally written for a drunk tenor who sang with a soundly happy ending, is a soundly happy ending, or a mess.

Given one or two minor qualifications, the Zurich cast pull off the feat with heartening bravura. Yvonne Kenny's lovely Aspasia preserves her distinctive tone through all the exhibition pieces, and elsewhere she draws some feminine, even seductive, qualities from the role. Given the genre, there is no mean achievement. The role of Sifare, originally one of three for castrato, is sung by Ann Murray, in a performance that once again demonstrates her

versatility and professionalism. Her pianissimo entries were immaculate, and I found her scenes with Miss Kenny the most touching of the whole evening.

Gösta Winbergh made a brave attempt at the title role, to which a *tenore di grazia* is not well suited. In there, though, a tenor today who could conquer this part? Julia Hamari and Elizabeth Gale offer distinguished contributions as Farnace and Ismene; Arbace's single aria was left out, but Amette Kittenbaum makes a pleasing impression.

Musically and scenically, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Jean-Pierre Ponnelle have matched the standard of their Lucio Silvestri and Idomeneo. The orchestra is sensibly reduced from Mozart's original 60 players to 35 (including double woodwind and three horns, and a much less prominent part for keyboard). The production is imbued with Harnoncourt's characteristic clarity and energy, and it is largely his achievement that the evening retains its high standards.

Ponnelle's stylish production includes some well-judged comic relief, and dramatises several scenes by prefacing them with a pregnant silence. It



Yvonne Kenny as Aspasia and Gösta Winbergh in the title role

is less psychologically-oriented than usual, largely on account of the material, but also because

of the limited space afforded by the intimate court theatre at Schwetzingen.

## Arts Guide

## Exhibitions

## PARIS

Claude Lorraine or Le Lorrain (1600-1682), as his name indicates, was born in Lorraine but spent his creative years in Rome. He was a painter of luminous landscapes and a poet of the sea. He influenced Turner and Monet and was admired by Goethe and Keats. His love of nature charmed the English, yet his compatriots failed to appreciate him fully. Thus many of the oils, drawings and engravings in this exhibition, significantly organised on the initiative of the National Gallery of Washington, will be seen for the first time in France. Grand Palais. Closed Tue. Ends May 16 (200 39262).

Edouard Manet: An exceptional retrospective marks the 100th anniversary of the artist's death including Olympia, the Bar at the Folies Bergères, Nana and Desseins sur l'Herbe. Paintings, which at the time created such a scandal, are now seen as classics in the tradition of Franz Hals and Velasquez, whom Manet revered. Yet at the same time they are a homage to one of the first impressionists and a pioneer of modern art. Grand Palais, April 16-August 1, closed Tue. Late night Wed till 10pm (201 5410).

## WEST GERMANY

Cologne, Rautenstrauch-Joss Museum: The only German venue of an exhibition featuring 2,000 Mexican wooden dance and death masks. Also Pre-Columbian objects on loan

from the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City. Ends May 15.

Hanover, Kestner Gesellschaft, 18 Warndorferstrasse: The complete graphic work of Oskar Kokoschka, the Austrian expressionist, carefully guarded against daylight so as not to damage the delicate water colours and drawings. Ends May 15.

Cologne, Walraf-Richartz-Museum: An der Reichsschule Irish art of three thousand years comprises virtually all Irish national treasures on loan from the Irish National Museum, Trinity College, Dublin, and Irish Academy of Sciences. Manuscripts, relics of Irish Saints and utensils from the workshop of Irish masterpieces: silverware and gold and silver jewellery. Ends June 2.

Malaz, Mittelrheinisches Landesmuseum, 40 Grosse Bleiche: In honour of the year's 50th anniversary of the artist's birth, the museum is showing original drafts, documents, models and photographs recording the conception and realisation of a number of public memorials to the great reformer in the 19th century. Closes at the end of May.

Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum: German painters of the 20th century, among them Adalbert Trillhaase, the Bible-painting clerk who inspired Düsseldorf realists early this century. Ends May 22.

## VIENNA

Hermes Villa, Lainzer Tiergarten: Heinrich von Ferstel—buildings and projects for Vienna to commemorate the centenary of the birth of the architect whose projects, realised and unrealised revolutionised the architecture of his time. The architects of the Volkstheater in Vienna is renowned not only for his "modern" designs but also for his use of new techniques. His steel constructions, often with a variety of costly stone, marble and bronze and his imaginative cafes, restaurants and private villas remain as witness to his rich talents.

## BRUSSELS

Royal Palace of Laeken's Greenhouses. Annual opening of the royal plant collections. Friday and Saturday evening visits are floodlit. Ends May 15.

Palais des Beaux Arts: Venetian drawing of the 18th century. Tiepolo, Piazzetta, Piranesi, Guardi, Canaletto. Societe Generale de Banque: 100 years of glass in Europe. Ends May 20.

Kredietbank: Young artists of Flanders. Musée du Costume et de la Dentelle: From Worth to Chanel. Theatre National (from 8pm to 11pm): British posters 1890-1980.

May 6-12

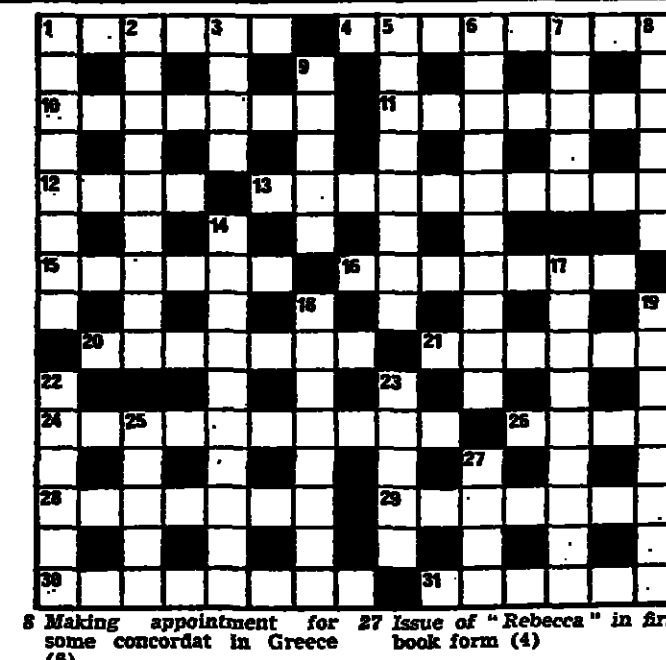
## F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 5169

## ACROSS

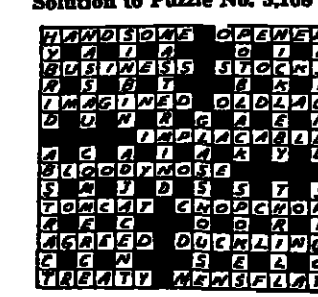
- Red-skinned American woman (6)
- Boy about at that point when he is ready to begin shaving (8)
- Newcastle O—left behind in the Milk Cup? (7)
- Undercooked morsel from Wales? (7)
- Celebrated pottery? (4)
- He has the freedom of his city one night in seven (10)
- Western Australia in Oval upset—declaration should follow (6)
- Most-boiled player of football team at home (7)
- Lively party in Nether Wallop? (7)
- Trouble affecting jogger—irritation on street (6)
- Grand pitch-setter (5-5)
- Insipid fellow not generally liked in Bath (4)
- French local variety of grebe, gold-capped (7)
- Till-worship turning his acre over (7)
- Like Lear's lines, difficult to understand (8)
- His Nathan Detroit to hold the stage over there (6)

## DOWN

- The charm of Sir Walter Scott (8)
- In stomach disorder, one should keep subject dry (9)
- Second person of five hundred? (4)
- A cryptographer's rise of simply taking initial characters (8)
- Blanket cover-up? (5-5)
- Teacher's pet detailed (5)



Solution to Puzzle No. 5168



## FINANCIAL TIMES

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BRACKEN HOUSE, CANNON STREET, LONDON EC4P 4BY  
Telegrams: Finantime, London P54, Telex: 8954871  
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Thursday May 12 1983

## Reform of the EEC budget

PROPOSALS for a reform of the EC budget made by the European Commission are a small step in the right direction. But it is true not only from a British viewpoint, but in the interests of equity within the Community. The need for something to be done was stressed again by yesterday's warning from the Commission, issued with proposals for the 1984 budget, that the EEC is in danger of running out of money.

The present system is slanted heavily towards the needs of farmers and peasants. The Common Agricultural Policy swallows up two-thirds of EEC revenue. That revenue is raised from member states with little regard for their ability to pay.

## Share

There are three sources of revenue: customs duties on imports from outside the Community, which have declined in importance with the reduction of tariff levels; levies on foodstuffs imported into the Community; and a payment equivalent to the value of an additional value tax levied at a rate of 1 per cent.

Only the last of these three sources of revenue bears any relation to the wealth and ability to pay of individual member states. Similarly on the expenditure side, there is only a tenuous link between need and Community disbursements.

There may have been a sort of rough justice to the excessive share of the Common Agricultural Policy in the 1960s and early 1970s, when industry could be equated with wealth. Nowadays that is no longer the case. Denmark and the Netherlands with above average farming sectors are among the wealthiest members of the EEC. They are also among the net beneficiaries of the transfers of resources effected by the workings of the budget.

Those workings have been summed up in a slightly cynical rule of thumb which says that, to become a net beneficiary, you must allow your share in Community farm subsidies to exceed your share in Community domestic product. That is neither sound economics nor, ultimately, calculated to sustain a sound agriculture.

## Elements

To achieve a better balance, both expenditure and revenues need to be reformed. The imbalance of expenditure has been under attack for some years. Spending on regional, social and energy policies has been growing steadily, but from a very low base. In its proposals of May 5 the Commission set a target by which the CAP would absorb one third of Community spending instead of the present two thirds.

It also proposed a new formula under which CAP costs exceeding the magic one third would be charged to members according to their gross domestic product per capita and their share in Community agricultural production. In other words the proposal makes a small concession, which eventually may prove significant, to the principle that the burden shall fall on those who can afford it. It also applies the principle that those who produce surpluses shall pay for them more heavily than those who do not.

Both elements are all to the good. Reform of the CAP to get spending under control must be the highest priority. But it would be naive to believe that the structure of the budget can be put right exclusively at the cost of the beneficiaries of the CAP. It is individual farmers or nations with a strong farming community. There also must be an attack made from the other wing by laying increasing stress on other Community policies.

Policies need to be sought out that are best pursued at the level of the Community, rather than at national level. Doing so requires a willingness to bring about a transfer of resources from the richer to the poorer members. It does not mean the pursuit of expenditure for its own sake, though more money will be needed.

## Balance

To get it, the Commission wants to alter the rule that limits the VAT-related levy on members to a rate of 1 per cent. Doing so will require ratification by all member states, though the Commission wants subsequent changes to be possible upon the unanimous agreement of the Council of Ministers and a three-fifths affirmative majority in the European Parliament. Those qualifications should be enough for all but the most suspicious critic of supranationalism. The Commission deserves a sympathetic hearing when it calls for that money—always provided that it is clearly understood that the funds are to serve a more constructive purpose than merely plugging holes which the CAP is tearing into Community finances.

Equally, a budget reform designed solely to reduce the British net contribution to Community finances—however justified British demands for refunds have been and still are—must be by itself enough. The objective must be a better balance between policies and greater equity for all members. Only if those criteria are respected is there a case for supporting the Commission's wish for more revenues.

## Gaffes are back in season

THE GOVERNMENT, in its unseemly haste to call an election, has stepped snarlingly onto a small banana skin, thoughtfully placed by Mr Peter Shore. The timing of the poll has cut short the tedious but necessary process of considering the Finance Bill in detail—a ritual which Mrs Thatcher herself used at one time greatly to relish.

Measures must be passed on the nod, or the flow of revenue might stop, and that requires the cooperation of the opposition: they have rather naturally refused to nod at a handful of measures which they find particularly distasteful, and which they would in any case repeal should they win office.

## Consequences

The sight of senior Ministers rushing to the television studios, to assure any higher-rate payers who happen to be watching that everything will go on as if nothing had happened, is simply comic. Unfortunately it is not quite true: some marginal concessions on capital taxation will be lost in good earnest to anyone who is unlucky enough to die before new legislation can be brought in by a new Conservative Government, or who has already made a transfer in the mistaken belief that Mrs Thatcher would indeed soldier on.

The sums involved are not large, but a few people will be justifiably angry. They may be tempted to blame the Opposition, but it was the Government that chose to go to the country at this time. It is left not with the budget it planned, but with something a little like the "caretaker" budget Mr Healey introduced to clear the way for a May

election in 1979. On that occasion, however, it was the Opposition that wrote the timetable.

Some of the consequences of the Government's haste will not be quite so trivial. For example, the Prime Minister, as a consequence of her own timing, may have given offence to her staunchest international friend, President Reagan. Her cancellation of a visit to Washington is understandable, but her decision under the Williamsburg summit is distressing to the President and she really ought to make her mind up to go. Most past Prime Ministers would have jumped at the chance to confer at top level during a campaign. Whether her present doubts are read as showing that she regards the President's carefully-prepared meeting as unimportant, or simply that she cannot trust her colleagues to run the campaign for a couple of days, it can do her little credit.

## Programme

Offending an ally is not a trivial matter; but the really serious question which will be answered shortly is whether the Government is ready to campaign on a thoroughly well-prepared programme for the Opposition (in more senses than one) may be a good tactical play, but if the result is to hobble the next government with a vague and half-digested set of proposals, the price would be high. However, we will not allow the Government's own haste to rush us into judging this question ahead of the evidence.

FOR months now, in speech after speech across Europe and the U.S., General Bernard Rogers, Nato's supreme commander in Europe, has spoken chilling sentences like these: "We have mortgaged our future to the nuclear response." "We have built ourselves a short conventional war." "We will have to resort fairly quickly to the use of nuclear weapons if the Soviet Union attacks with conventional forces."

The most recent occasion was only last Friday, when he summed up after a two-day conference attended, at his military headquarters near the Belgian town of Mons, by an impressive array of Nato's top commanders and national defence chiefs.

Rogers' first public address on the theme was given in early 1982 to a military science conference in Munich. His office at SHAPE—Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe—reckons that between his speeches and given 53 major press interviews and 12 press conferences, all on the same theme.

In the increasingly controversial defence debate in the West, Bernard Rogers is now a key figure, controversial in his turn and demanding attention. For in his dual role as SACEUR—the allied commander in Europe—and commander of the 300,000 U.S. forces there Rogers is the single most powerful military figure in the western alliance.

General Rogers' message, though he complains it is misunderstood in certain key details, is stark. It is that unless the western alliance improves the conventional forces, Nato will have to use nuclear weapons in central Europe "within days, not weeks" to try to stop a Soviet conventional attack.

Last week, in a long interview in his office at SHAPE, he explained why he felt Nato was in this dangerous position and what it should do about it. He spoke about Nato's weaknesses and about how new high technology weapons, already being developed by the west as well as U.S. companies, could strengthen the alliance's conventional forces, raising the threshold at which nuclear weapons would be used.

He reflected on how Europe's minorities, Germans and clumsy American attempts to thrust its new tactical concepts on Nato, could undermine alliance cohesion.

To do what he suggests would mean sacrifices—an extra £10 a head for everyone in Britain this year, for example, Roger said. If people were prepared for that kind of sacrifice "we could get to a point where we have a chance of frustrating a conventional attack." If they were not, then for the military it would be "days not weeks" but not as little as two days, as some semi-official U.S. briefings have suggested.

Rogers' request for the authority to use nuclear weapons in time of war goes simultaneously to the Ministries of Defence, to the U.S. and to Britain, the two Nato nuclear powers who take the ultimate decision. "My request covers what weapons we intend to use, what the consequences would be, the specific targets we would intend to hit and any collateral damage... I constrain myself on collateral damage—the size of a warhead, for example, in any built up area."

He makes clear that more than a warning shot, for example with short range nuclear artillery shells, would be involved in the attempt to break a Warsaw Pact advance. "I am talking about weapons systems that could reach into non-Soviet Warsaw Pact nations. I could request hitting some targets in the Soviet Union, under certain conditions—conditions that are spelled out. I'm not talking about hitting population centres. Targets must be militarily significant, not only to the other side, but to us."

Rogers has no authority outside that given by Nato's elected leaders to release nuclear weapons—"not should I have," he adds. But as a military commander he did sketch a situation where Nato had to bear the burden of using nuclear weapons first, while he was afraid that Nato was "so outnumbered" by the medium range nuclear weapons that the Soviet Union could use in Europe that its initial attack could provoke a "devastating response."

Rogers said he was aware of the "fine line between talking down your own and overplaying the other side's capability." But he added: "I have been convinced ever since I was a young pup that you have to tell the people just as it is and not delude them... If the people are satisfied with what is really a delayed trip wire—its delayed X days—then fine. But if they're worried about a conventional attack coming, worried about the use of nuclear weapons which could escalate... then the question you have to ask is: are you prepared to do something about it?"

For General Rogers doing something means at least three things. He wants to improve Nato's conventional forces to make them a more efficient deterrent—to make war of any sort less likely. "I don't

want to fight a war. You only have to be in combat for five minutes to know it's a stupid way to do business." But if war comes he wants to raise the threshold at which nuclear weapons would have to be used. However, no idea Rogers put forward envisages changing Nato's strategy of ultimate reliance to deter war on a mix of short, medium and intermediate range nuclear weapons. He is clearly in favour of a policy of no early use of nuclear weapons, but he does not believe Nato should give up the option of first use "because that option, plus the uncertainty, plus retaining an adequate array of nuclear weapons through the spectrum is what will keep the Soviets deterred."

There are two key aspects to the Rogers plan. First, Nato must do better with what it has, or plans to have. Rogers says that currently, for example, member countries meet only 70 per cent of what they term their force goals—a panoply of military objectives including training and manning and the modernisation of equipment. These originate in national capitals and are reviewed and agreed every two years within Nato.

To meet these targets, Rogers says, would mean a real increase of 4 per cent a year in Nato budgets rather than the pledged—and largely unmet—1 per cent target.

Much more controversial is Rogers' plan to use new high-technology weapons to give Nato tactical advantage on the central European front. Here, Rogers reached for a diagram to explain Soviet tactics and his proposed Nato reply. He explained how, partly in response to Nato's threat to use nuclear weapons, Soviet forces are "echeloned back from the inner German border into a first and second front and a theatre

behind the emphasis on new technology, a view quite widely shared by European companies as well. The U.S. army is also advocating similar tactical concepts, and some European officials suspect that the U.S. Government is intent on changing Nato strategy, undermining, for example, the key commitment of the forward defence of West Germany.

Rogers meets these criticisms head on. "I don't give a damn where the weapons systems come from," he says, noting that European industry has its own high-tech capability and suggesting European and U.S. industry could agree to specialise roles in the production of the new weapons.

Yet he admits that there is hostility and suspicion in Europe and blames the U.S. for it. In particular, he says that the U.S. Army's new battle concept described in a document called Air Land Battle 2000, have caused great confusion in Europe. "It got so bad last October that I had to send a message to the ministers of defence and foreign affairs pointing out that we're not implementing ALB 2000"—a futuristic document which, with its global responsibilities, the U.S. Army is right to produce, Rogers says. "But Air Land Battle talks about a pre-emptive attack. Well, not in allied command Europe, you know. We're not going to have a pre-emptive attack."

Rogers also criticises Mr Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. Defence Secretary, who last December presented a paper to his colleagues Nato defence ministers on the emerging technologies—dubbed "ET." Seeing this paper come out of the Department of Defense "our allies over say, uh huh, the U.S. is pushing too hard. That worries me, too."

Asked whether he relays these criticisms to the relevant U.S. officials, Rogers replied: "You're damn right I do."

Rogers' job—held before him by General Alexander Haig and General Eisenhower, among others—is clearly not purely a military one. But is it his place, as SACEUR, publicly to take what is ultimately a very political stand? Shouldn't that be left to Nato's politicians?

Cautiously, Rogers began to develop what seems to be the thesis that is the centre of his worries. "I am a soldier assigned to a political mission, to do what I can in the defence of war. I feel it incumbent on me to try to get opinion leaders and nations where political leaders can't or won't lead—because of minority governments—to see the dangers that exist."

Britain did not have a leadership problem, but in other countries leaders often could or would not speak out. "If those others who bear the responsibility and I don't tell them where we stand, what we need and what the sacrifices are—who else is going to tell them?"

Rogers—a post-war Rhodes scholar, and veteran of Korea and Vietnam, who has just been appointed for a further two years in his current posts in Europe—then added revealingly: "My major concern, and I am not alone, is that we're waking up and find the military situation is no longer manageable and we are blackmailed, coerced and politically intimidated. Now there are senior leaders within this alliance whose concern is identical to mine, but they don't talk much."

## THE DEFENCE OF EUROPE

## Day 'X' and the nuclear weapons trap

Bridget Bloom, Defence Correspondent, interviews Gen. Bernard Rogers (right), Nato's Supreme Commander in Europe and a key figure in the West's defence debate

through along the narrow central European front. He makes light, publicly, of the first: that allied troops will not get dug into their "general defensive positions" in time, which could happen either because there is not enough warning of an attack from the East, or because Nato's politicians fail to agree in time that the enemy should be engaged.

He says it is Nato's ability to sustain its defence which worries him most. "With sufficient time to get our troops... dug in and ready to go, I am sure they will conduct themselves extremely well. Our problem is a lack of sustainability."

"Our three main shortfalls after D plus X Day will be when we've run out of ammunition, manpower in some instances and prepositioned war reserves—weapons systems, tanks and so on." Rogers refuses to put a figure to "X", the particular day following the outbreak of war when under his current guidance nuclear weapons would be used. "That one is classified." Later in the interview he would be "days not weeks" but not as little as two days, as some semi-official U.S. briefings have suggested.

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## ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT

## Inflation: make haste slowly

By Samuel Brittan

ONE of the biggest questions facing the Government is how far and how fast it wants to proceed in reducing the rate of inflation still further. Taken by itself, the lower the rate of inflation the better, until some where not far from price stability is reached. But few benefits are achieved without cost; although the cost in this case is not that of low inflation itself, but that of moving from a higher to a lower inflation rate.

The reduction of inflation, not only in Britain, but in the whole industrial world, has had a cost in terms of recession and unemployment. It does not follow that further reductions in the inflation rate would have an exactly comparable cost, but they are unlikely to be achieved for nothing, and the question of "how far and how fast to go" needs attention.

To begin with we have to estimate what the true rate of inflation is at present. It is certainly not the figure of 4 per cent, or even less, representing the 12 monthly rate of increase in the Retail Prices Index up to last April, to be published on May 20.

There are all sorts of reasons why the inflation rate darts about in the short term. A particular reason for "low inflation" this April is that the RPI comparison will measure the period after the 1982 Budget when indirect taxes (which are informally indexed to the previous year's inflation) rose much more than they did after the 1983 Budget.

The Red Book published by the Treasury at Budget time envisaged the 12-month increase in the RPI rising to 6 per cent in the latter part of this year and the first half of 1984, but did not project this particular indicator further ahead. Outside forecasts for 1984 tend to be in the 6 to 7 per cent area.

A better index, which is free of some of the temporary distortions that affect the RPI, is the "GDP deflator" — the price index relating to the whole of national output (excluding the import component). The Treasury forecast is 5½ per cent in 1983-84 financial year. A similar rise is "assumed" in 1984-1985 and a dip to 5 per cent is assumed for 1985-86.

A still more basic indicator is

obtained by comparing the growth of earnings per head with the underlying rate of productivity growth. This is used by official advisers in many countries to give the "underlying" rate of inflation. For it indicates the average rate of inflation likely to prevail amidst all the buffeting of raw material price changes, profit margin fluctuations and so on. Earnings are now estimated to be rising at just under 8 per cent annum; and productivity is put at 2 per cent — perhaps a slightly conservative estimate. The calculation thus gives an underlying annual inflation rate of 6 to 6½ per cent.

Yet another way of looking at the inflation rate is to examine the expectations of financial investors. These can be found by taking the yield on indexed gilts — which represents the real rate of interest — and subtracting it from the yield on conventional gilts.

There are two complications in the exercise. One is that the actual yield will vary with the tax position of the holder; the other is that conventional gilts embody a risk premium as well as a central inflation expectation. If the position of zero-tax payers holding high coupon stock is compared, an expected inflation rate of about 8 per cent emerges. But by examining the position of high rate taxpayers, the Bank of England

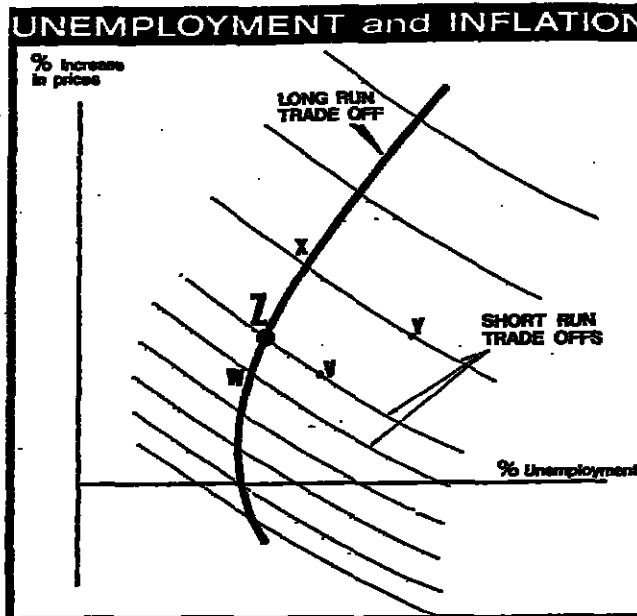
## Comparing earnings with underlying productivity

was able last February to show a 2 per cent expected inflation rate at the other end of the range; it did not, however, argue that the latter was a realistic guide to inflation expectations.

The upshot of all these different procedures seems to be an underlying inflation rate of 5 to 6 per cent prevailing at present.

What was the underlying inflation rate in 1978, the last full year of the Labour Government? The year-on-year increase in the RPI was 8.5 per cent; but the earnings rise was 13 per cent. If one applies the same productivity deduction as before this gives an underlying rate of 11 per cent.

After the collapse of the



The thin lines represent the short-term trade-off between inflation and unemployment. The thick line represents the long-term trade-off. The points W, X, Y and Z are explained in the article.

Labour Government's incomes policy and the pay increases induced by the second oil price explosion, Sir Geoffrey Howe's increase in VAT and the implementation of the Clegg awards, the underlying rate of inflation calculated the same way had risen to 18 per cent in 1980. Thus the pains of the last few years can be associated with a reduction of inflation either from 18 per cent to 5½ to 6 per cent or from 11 per cent to 5½ to 6 per cent, depending on how much of an aberration the year 1980 is regarded as being.

It would clearly be wrong to regard the whole of the increase in adjusted adult unemployment from 1.4m in 1978 to 3.1m today as the cost of reducing inflation by 6 to 12 percentage points, even if we count in the cost those elements of the world recession which are due to tight money by the Fed and other national authorities. The required components of the required recession which are due to tight money by the Fed and other national authorities. The required components of the required recession which are due to tight money by the Fed and other national authorities.

But some part of the increase was due to the clash between counterinflationary policies and the forces of wage push, which were not even partially vanquished until too late. The chart with this article

tries to summarise the relation between unemployment and inflation. It is of course highly schematic and there are many other influences not shown. But so far as there is a relation between unemployment and inflation, the short-term is very different from the long-term. The short-term relation is shown by the thin lines (sometimes known as Phillips curves). Starting from a position of balance (e.g. point X) a reduction of inflation by conventional financial means will involve a temporary increase in unemployment, say to point Y.

This is basically due to the time it takes for those who set wages and prices to adjust their behaviour to a less inflationary policy. Once the adaptation is complete wages and prices will be rising at a much reduced rate. This stimulates real demand and the level of unemployment contracts to its long-term level — shown by point Z on the thick line.

In the long run it is all different. When the inflation rate is moderate to low, it has probably little lasting effect on unemployment, one way or the other. But at a high rate of inflation, the

short-term trade off is reversed; and as inflation worsens, so does unemployment. The main reason for this is that high rates of inflation tend also to be unstable and unpredictable ones, to which people find it very difficult to adapt.

At the bottom end of the inflation scale, on the other hand, one can argue endlessly about whether an average inflation rate of 0, 1, 2, 3 or -1 per cent would be most helpful to economic performance and therefore to employment.

The thick line is in fact almost vertical in its lower ranges, with a slight inflection at the bottom to indicate that the optimum inflation rate may differ slightly from the exact zero point, and that major deflation would be harmful.

The present rate of unemployment may be represented by point Y. If the basic world and UK economic position had been unchanged since 1978-80, unemployment might be expected to shrink eventually to Z. Professor Michael Beenstock in fact argues that there will be a large fall in unemployment in the course of the 1980s in a new City University Business School economic model ("CUBS") to be published shortly. Mr Gavin Davies of Samon and Coates takes a much more pessimistic view; he believes that the basic position has deteriorated so much that

pay increases the market can stand. Nevertheless it is still difficult to believe that inflation could be cut further — say from 2 to 1 in the chart — without some transitional unemployment cost, say a temporary increase to point V.

We are now approaching the range of inflation rates which have been normal since World War II, and there could be considerable resistance on the way down to zero. Moreover, a long period of temporary or transitional unemployment is itself associated with the scrapping of plant and with the reduction in training and recruitment, thereby raising the long-term unemployment rate and shifting the thick long-term line to the right.

If it thought it were possible to stabilise the inflation rate at 5 to 6 per cent until the end of time, I would probably settle for it. The main objection is that psychological factors will prevent it settling at any such level. Once the policy became known, the Government would be under great pressure to allow the inflation rate to rise by the odd per cent or two each year; and after a few years we could be back with the old problem.

The correct moral of the "cost of disinflation" is that we should henceforth make haste slowly. An underlying inflation objective of 4 per cent for the end of the next parliament and 3 per cent the one after that would make more sense than an early drive to price stability, and it is extremely doubtful whether incomes policy could make the transition more quickly without pain.

The case for gradualism was in fact taken aboard before the last Budget when the Government was persuaded not to reduce its target monetary growth rate for 1983-84 from the originally planned 7 to 11 per cent, even though inflation had fallen faster than expected. In view of the vagaries of the velocity this gradualist intention should be stated in terms of money time velocity or money GDP. The general moral, illustrated by the chart, is that the lower the rate of inflation the lower the priority that attaches to reducing it further. Making haste slowly when reducing inflation is subtly different from living with it, but the difference is all important.

gross miscalculations about the

## Lombard

## A practical plan for currencies

By Nicholas Colchester

WEEK BY WEEK the sense of frustration with the world's present monetary non-system grows more tangible. There is general agreement that floating exchange rates have proved unsatisfactory. The markets have rarely thrown up rates that seem realistic. Currency rates have proved unacceptably volatile. The hoped-for monetary independence proved a chimera because most nations remained just as dollar-vulnerable and dollar-conscious as they had been in the days of the dollar-based fixed exchange rate system.

But what comes next? Here the consensus evaporates. At one extreme the French want to return to a Bretton Woods system of "realistic parities," or something close to it. At the other, the U.S. will barely concede that there is a case for smoothing exchange rate movements with central bank intervention, let alone intervening to defend rates dictated by some new and more ordered system.

There are those who hope that by a greater degree of economic policy co-ordination between the governments of the major economies, the floating exchange market could be persuaded to settle down. Logically it should, but in practice it probably will not. Having singularly failed to produce realistic rates in response to the unco-ordinated policies of different nations, why should the markets do better when policies are co-ordinated? The speculative forces which drive modern markets are looking for excuses to start movements and benefit from them, and, however close the dialogue between Finance Ministers of the big five, they will continue to find such excuses.

One monetary way forwards in this increasingly interdependent world is towards a single currency system. But for all the thrashing around and interest within the present multi-currency arrangement, it remains most unfeasible to explore the idea of a single world currency.

And yet a number of current developments appear to point in a one currency direction. For instance, the attempt to hold free trade together has forced the major trading nations to adopt "consensus" interest rates for trade credits. While their different currencies have different interest rates, they

have chosen to suppress these differences and standardise the interest rates to avoid low interest nations having too unfair an advantage. It is rather as though there was an unspoken wish to extend trade credit in one standard currency.

Then there is the dawning realisation, identified by the U.S. economist Ronald McKinnon, that money is not a national but a global commodity.

Finally there is the lesson of the floating currency experiment. Nations have not been able to enjoy monetary independence. The foreign exchange markets have proved potent in their ability to dump the currencies of countries whose anti-inflationary policies seemed laxer than those of their neighbours. Western countries have been forced to mimic U.S. interest rate policies because they have not found it possible to divorce their trade sufficiently from the U.S. dollar to accept dollar exchange rate movements with equanimity. They have all been living in more of a one currency world than they care to admit.

It would be baying at the moon to suggest that the next "Bretton Woods" should move the world in the direction of one currency. But there may be a practical way to sow the seeds of a one currency habit and at the same time mitigate the worst discomforts of exchange rate volatility.

The Special Drawing Right, a basket of five currencies printed by the five theoretically independent central banks of the U.S., the UK, France, West Germany and Japan, should be promoted much more actively as the unit of account and even payment for international transactions. The use of the SDRs in trade credits would solve the argument over interest rates. The use of SDRs for crude oil pricing and commodity contracts and agreements would diffuse, though not remove, the impact on producer and consumer economies of exchange rate movements.

The surest way out of a monetary situation which everyone regards as unsatisfactory, by such practical means, to dilute the dollar-dependence which lies at the root of all the argument and all the discomfort.

## Letters to the Editor

## Key role of electronic systems and components

From the Consultant Director, Electronic Components Industry Federation

Sir,—The electronic components industry welcomes the Government's general acceptance of the Alvey recommendations, in particular those on very large scale integration and input/output devices. But the importance must also be recognised of a national capability in the design of the components, not less essential, components, passive as well as active.

The key role in the economy of electronic systems including everything covered by information technology is generally recognised, but much systems are totally dependent upon the components incorporated in them. If the equipment industries became dependent upon

foreign suppliers for key components, the long-term implications would be serious. Increasing the design of electronic systems and sub-systems is being integrated so that the closest interaction between system and component designers is essential; with components sourced from the U.S. or Japan, the interactive design process would be difficult and inefficient because of the time and distances involved, and British equipment designers would be unlikely to have access to the latest developments until after their foreign competitors; thus they would eventually become uncompetitive in world markets. Finally there would be a real risk of political interference by the government of the supplying country with exports of equipment incor-

porating their components (cf. the Soviet gas pipeline).

For these reasons, an indigenous, competitive and profitable electronic components industry is vital. We do not accept the implications of your recent leader about Japanese VCR manufacture in Europe which referred to the need to ensure continued supply of the "necessary" components from Japan. The UK industry has shown itself capable of supplying electronic components of the required performance and quality to the Japanese companies making CTV sets in the UK, and we are confident that we can do the same for VCRs; imports of such components from Japan are not "necessary".

R. H. W. Bullock, ECIF, 7-8, Saville Row, W.1.

## Another barrier down?

From Mr M. Strong

Sir,—I wonder if anyone has considered the effect on inflation which the new £1 coin will have. I do not think many people doubt that decimalisation was one of the factors that led to an increase in inflation in the 1970s. Not only did most of us manage to convince ourselves that a new penny had the same value as an old penny but the psychological barrier of the shilling was lost.

Are we not going to lose the same psychological barrier now that £1 has ceased to be folding money which has to be extracted from a wallet, and has become loose change. The jump from the £1 barrier to the £5 barrier is so enormous that it must surely have an inflationary effect. It is no use saying that gold sovereigns were once used without such an effect because they, being gold, were strictly limited in supply, which the new £1 coin certainly is not.

Michael Strong, c/o P.O. Box 3091, Singapore 9050.

## Voting with their feet

From Mr B. Engert

Sir,—When Robin Pauley suggests (May 7) that "with few exceptions in a few London boroughs rates are not an issue in most elections," he is stating a half-truth.

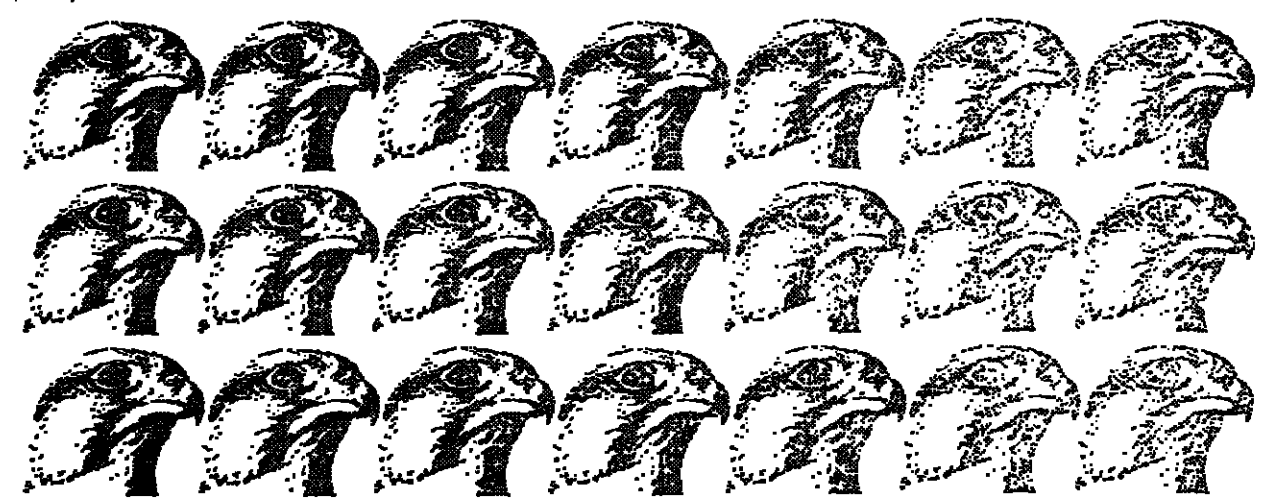
In the older parts of the big conurbations there is a sharp distinction between electors and ratepayers; many if not most of the former are employed by the local authority which, if Socialist, leans heavily on maximising the number of jobs and many of the remaining electors, if not a majority, are net beneficiaries with rate and rent rebates or frozen rents and so forth.

Private ratepayers, for example where I worked in my business in the East End of London, are a minute minority and, of course, the biggest body of ratepayers, trade and industry, have no vote.

He who pays the piper does not call the tune these days, hence the exodus of industry and even offices to outside the big conurbations as my old firm has done. The real ratepayers have no means of making higher and even higher rates an issue and so perform vote with their feet.

Barclay, Kils Lane, Binfield Heath, Henley-on-Thames.

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<b>Smith Barney, Harris Uphams &amp; Co.</b> <i>New York</i>	<b>Société Centrale de Banque</b>	<b>Société Générale</b>	<b>J. Henry Schroder Wagg &amp; Co. Ltd.</b>
<b>Société d'Assurance de Banque</b>	<b>Sparbanken Oslo Akropolis</b>	<b>Samloms Trust International</b> <i>Londres</i>	<b>Société Générale de Banque S.A.</b>
<b>The Tokyo-Mitsui Bank (Luxembourg) S.A.</b>	<b>Vereins- und Westbank</b> <i>Aachen-Münster</i>	<b>M. M. Warberg-Brackmann, Wirtz &amp; Co.</b>	<b>Svenska Handelsbanks Group</b>
<b>Westdeutsche Landesbank</b>	<b>Williams &amp; Glyn's Bank plc</b>	<b>Yamichi International (Europe)</b>	<b>Yokota Trust Europe</b>

## INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE



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for further details.

## French move on imports hits JVC

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

VICTOR COMPANY of Japan (JVC), the leading audio equipment manufacturer and the developer of the VHS video cassette recorder system, has reported a setback in earnings for the year ended March 31. The company was hit by the six-month long French import restriction on Japanese VCRs, dubbed the "Battle of Poitiers".

JVC's full year operating profits fell by 18 per cent to ¥40.2bn (\$174m). Unconsolidated net profits were 1.7 per cent lower at ¥19.2bn, on turnover of ¥497bn (\$21.1bn), up by merely 0.6 per cent from the previous year. Unconsolidated full year profits per share fell to ¥92.27, from ¥112.73. The final dividend is held at ¥6.25 for an unchanged ¥12.5 total.

The company suspended its supply of VCRs to Thomson

Brandt of France on an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) basis when the French import measures were introduced last November. As a result, exports of VCRs to France fell ¥15bn short of the original target of ¥36bn.

Price cutting in both domestic and overseas markets on the part of Japanese makers, as well as a rapid shift in consumer demand towards lower-priced VCRs, were also responsible for a ¥10bn shortfall from the original sales targets for last year.

As a result, sales of VCRs and related equipment rose by only 6 per cent to account for 68 per cent of the total.

Sales of audio equipment fell by 13 per cent to account for 18 per cent of turnover with

performance affected by lower sales in Europe resulting from excessive inventories. In the first half of the fiscal year, sales of television sets were down by 6 per cent to account for 9 per cent of the total having been hit by the deterioration in the balance of payments of several important Latin American countries.

Owing to weaker prices for VCRs and VCR tapes in Europe, and to cuts in production of audio equipment and VCRs, the company's costs in sales ratio deteriorated by 1.5 per cent to 74.1 per cent. Higher depreciation and interest payments, resulting from heavier investment, also hit earnings.

In the current year to March 1984, JVC believes sales of VCRs will stay at the 1982-83 level, because of the Japanese

government's decision to restrain VCR exports to the EEC. On the other hand, TV sales are expected to increase by 20 per cent because of strong replacement demand.

Thanks to a run-down in overseas inventories of audio equipment, sales in this field are expected to grow by 10 per cent. As a result, JVC expects total sales for the year to increase by 4.5 per cent to ¥520bn.

However, a slump in sales of the group's main earner, VCRs, and a continued higher level of depreciation payments may weigh on earnings. Operating profits are projected at ¥36bn, down by 10.5 per cent, and net profits at ¥15bn, down by 22 per cent, from 1982-83. However, the company again intends to hold the dividend total at ¥12.5 per share.

## Coconut bank buys stake in San Miguel

By Emilia Tagaza in Manila

A POWERFUL partnership in Philippine business was sealed on Tuesday with the election to the board of San Miguel Corporation, the country's largest publicly quoted company, of three officials of the United Coconut Planters' Bank (UCPB), a leading commercial bank which controls the country's coconut industry.

At a San Miguel stockholders' meeting, Mr. Andres Soriano Jr., the chairman, said that a substantial portion of a block of shares recently unloaded in the market had been purchased by the "coconut industry," represented by Mr. Eduardo Cabañero Jr., the UCPB president. Mr. Cabañero is expected to be elected as San Miguel's vice-chairman.

The block of shares, roughly equivalent to 20 per cent of San Miguel's capital, was sold by Mr. Soriano. He said the company's former vice-chairman who had raised questions on Mr. Soriano's leadership. In a bid to exert greater influence over San Miguel's management, Mr. Soriano, who is also president of Ayala Corporation, the property and banking group, went on a buying spree of San Miguel shares. However, he re-sold most of the shares when Soriano launched his own buying binge, offering a higher bid for the shares.

Mr. Soriano also said that he is accepting UCPB's vice-chairmanship, which was offered to him at the same time that the bank offered to sell preferred shares to San Miguel. UCPB has raised its authorized capital to 100 pesos (U.S.\$103m) to formalise its status as a "universal bank" — a bank with an expanded capital base which the Central Bank allows to invest in shares of other companies. In raising its capital, UCPB issued 750m pesos worth of preferred, non-voting shares.

Mr. Soriano assured the stockholders that although the preferred shares do not give voting rights, San Miguel will be represented on the bank's board.

Observers have been quick to point out that the entry of UCPB into San Miguel might have raised the Government's interest in San Miguel. Although UCPB is a private bank formed mainly by the Price Stabilisation Fund of coconut farmers throughout the country, it is administered by Government figures.

## Beer sales lift SAB net 19%

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

A SUBSTANTIAL rise in beer sales and tax allowances on new investments enabled South African Breweries (SAB) to lift attributable earnings by 19 per cent in the year to March 31, despite an accelerating downturn in overall consumer spending.

Net income rose to R198.5m (\$182m) from R167m and operating profit to R398.4m (\$311.5m). Revenues climbed by 42 per cent to R4.3bn (\$3.1bn).

The group, South Africa's largest consumer products manufacturer and distributor, has raised its final dividend by one cent to 25 cents, making a total for the year of 35 cents (34 cents).

The results of SAB's two major recent acquisitions, Edgars Stores and Scott's

Stores, are fully consolidated in the 1983 results and included on an equity accounted basis for the few months that they formed part of the group in 1982.

SAB has a monopoly of the beer market. Its other interests include department, clothing, and furniture stores, hotels, wine and spirits, and furniture and footwear manufacturing.

Blackie account for over two-thirds of the beer market, and the 9 per cent rise in SAB's beer sales volumes last year suggests that the recession has not yet significantly dented black spending power, despite rising unemployment.

The directors expect the deepening recession, exacerbated by a severe drought, to dent household spending in the year ahead.

They said that the group has set a target for the coming year of maintaining 1983 earnings per share of 78 cents.

SAB's assets grew to R2.5bn at the end of March, from R1.9bn a year earlier. The portion of interest-bearing debt to shareholders funds rose slightly to 55 per cent.

The group has announced several senior management changes, but denied rumours that they were linked to tensions among top executives in its retail divisions.

Mr. Meyer Kahn, at present chief executive of O.K. Bazaars department store chain, is to become deputy group managing director of SAB. Mr. Adrian Bellamy, Edgars chairman, and an SAB director, has resigned to take up an unidentified post abroad.

## APM counterbids for Amatil unit

BY LACHLAN DRUMMOND IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN PAPER Manufacturers (APM) is to make a counter-bid of A\$4 a share for Fibre Containers, an offshoot of the food, drink and tobacco group Amatil, which is itself 51 per cent owned by BAT Industries of the UK.

The bid, which values FCL at A\$53m (US\$46.3m) and Amatil's 71 per cent holding at A\$43m, compares with the A\$3.50 a share already offered by the private Smorgon Consolidated Industries group.

However, both bids must first clear the hurdle of the Trade Practices Commission, which expects to report early next week on whether success for

either party would leave APM or Smorgon in a position to dominate or control the fibre container conversion industry.

Amatil has yet to respond to either the Smorgon formal offer or the intended APM bid.

The Commission began pre-emptive inquiries this week after APM boosted its stake in FCL from 8 per cent to 18 per cent after the Smorgon bid was announced last Wednesday.

APM provides 75 per cent of the paper board raw materials for the converters and, after earlier rationalisation steps designed to secure outlets for its paper board, has 40 per cent

of joint venture converter James Hardie Containers, which has about 30 per cent of industry capacity.

The Smorgon group has around 8 per cent of the conversion capacity and makes up the bulk of the remaining raw material supplies. FCL holds about 20 per cent of conversion capacity.

APM has been quick to play down its influence at Hardie Containers and the Smorgon group has not said it will devote all its raw material output to its expanded conversion interests, but bare figures give some idea of the reasons for the Commission's concern.

## MPH profits fall despite 87% jump in turnover

BY WONG SULONG IN KUALA LUMPUR

MULTI-PURPOSE HOLDINGS (MPH), the diversified Chinese Malaysian group, recorded a disappointing performance for 1982 with pre-tax profits falling by 10 per cent to 21.5m ringgit (U.S.\$6.6m) despite an 87 per cent increase in turnover to 313m ringgit.

Apart from its lottery subsidiary, Magnum Corporation, all the group's major subsidiaries, involved in plantations, property development and trading, suffered declines in profit because of the recession.

However, net profits were

boosted by an extraordinary sale of 50m ringgit from the sale of investments, with the result that the final net profit was 37m ringgit compared with 12.8m ringgit.

As in the past, MPH is not declaring a dividend. The directors said profits would be retained for further expansion — the group recently announced it was going into shipping.

The company's 42 per cent owned associate, Bandar Raya Developments reported a pre-tax profit decline of 85 per cent from 19.4m ringgit to 3.8m ringgit because of sluggish sales of houses and condominiums.



**Siderurgica Lazaro**  
Cárdenas - Las Truchas, S.A.

U.S.\$65,000,000 Floating Rate Notes due 1989

In accordance with the provisions of the above Notes, notice is hereby given that for the six months from 12th May 1983 to 14th November 1983 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 9 1/8% per annum.

The interest payable on each U.S.\$10,000 Note on the relevant interest payment date, 14th November 1983, against Coupon No. 3 will be U.S.\$474.69.

Agent Bank:



## HEALTH & TENNIS CORPORATION OF AMERICA

has been acquired by


**Bally**  
Manufacturing Corporation

The undersigned initiated this transaction, assisted in the negotiations leading to its conclusion and acted as financial advisor to Health and Tennis Corporation of America.

**L. F. ROTHSCHILD, UNTERBERG, TOWBIN**

April 6, 1983

U.S. \$40,000,000



### KINGDOM OF DENMARK

Floating Rate Notes Due 1990

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the interest period from May 12, 1983 to November 14, 1983 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 9 1/8% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, November 14, 1983, against Coupon No. 7 will be U.S.\$4,746.88 per U.S.\$100,000 Note.

By The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., London  
Agent Bank



Weekly net asset value



**Tokyo Pacific Holdings (Seaboard) N.V.**  
on 9th May, 1983, U.S. \$70.35

Listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange

Information: Pierson, Halding & Pierson N.V.,  
Herengracht 214, 1016 BS Amsterdam.

### VONTOBEL EUROBOONDINDIZES

WEIGHTED AVERAGE YIELDS

PER MAY 10 1983

	Today	INDEX	Last week	%	Year's	Year's
US\$ Eurobonds	11.48	11.52	12.50	11.48	11.48	11.48
DM (Foreign Bond Issues)	7.42	7.39	7.79	7.28	7.28	7.28
YFL (Bosche Notes)	8.08	8.08	8.08	8.08	8.08	8.08
Carls Eurobonds	12.70	12.70	13.55	12.70	12.70	12.70

J. Vontobel & Co. Bankers, Zurich - Tel: 010 471 498 7111



## INTL. COMPANIES &amp; FINANCE

## Australian building societies join up in fight against banking inroads

BY COLIN CHAPMAN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA is headed towards a new order of national building societies, as competition from banks and the installation of updated computer technology forces mergers to take place and consortia to be set up.

At the same time, the Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies and the various state registrars have almost completed drafting a National Building Societies Act as a model for nationwide uniform legislation.

Merger activity has gained pace during a year of increasing competition and reduced growth, with the industry comprising only 90 societies compared with 120 a year ago. Even this reduction in numbers underestimates the pace of rationalisation, with some of the country's biggest societies currently contemplating marriages of convenience.

After contemplating a proposal from the highly marketing oriented NSW building society, the United Permanent Building Society decided it would prefer to merge with the St George Building Society to form St George-United.

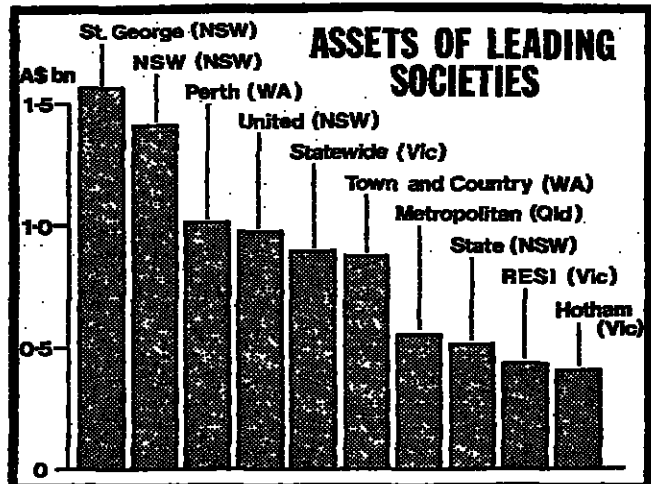
If members of both societies vote at secret ballots being conducted this month to accept the move, this will be Australia's largest society, with assets of A\$2.9bn.

To put this in perspective, the new society will be roughly one tenth the size, in staff numbers, assets, and branches, of the Westpac Banking Corporation, formed last year by the merger of the Bank of New South Wales and the Commercial Bank of Australia.

St George-United will hold 50 per cent of the building society market in New South Wales, the country's most populous state, and handle around one-fifth of the nation's business. St George has at present 159 branches and United 125—with 77 locations served by both societies.

But the proposed merger could be upset by a later proposal from the New South Wales State Building Society, controlled through share capital and board seats by the government-controlled State Bank of NSW, to join up with United Permanent.

The State Building Society has mounted a major campaign to disrupt the proposal, and to persuade shareholders to accept its own merger bid. It has argued that the St George-United marriage would create a



near-monopoly, and believes its own offer would better suit United, its members and staff, and the industry in general. In this it has had the vocal support of the Premier, Mr Neville Wran.

It sent four busloads of people to a United members' meeting at a Sydney racecourse last week to vote on the proposal, but it is extremely difficult to tell how the secret ballot will go. The State has assured United's staff that their jobs would be safe with its proposal, and has even guaranteed that branch managers would keep their staff cars.

There is no doubt that the St George-United merger would mean a greater rationalisation of the industry, but directors have pledged to employ all present staff at no less a position than currently enjoyed, while reducing numbers through natural attrition. The combined advertising budget of A\$7m will also be substantially trimmed.

St George has also taken the initiative in the formation of a consortium of six of the major interstate societies, including the RESI in Melbourne. The consortium, registered in Canberra, can muster about A\$1bn in liquid assets invested in short-term securities, mainly in the money market.

Apart from deciding on common policy on investment, under an executive employed to look after their common interests, the societies in the group will operate a computer network, with lower software and data base costs.

Once the merger is completed, the banking sector is likely to feel the full blast of competition from the building societies, which have been spoiling for a fight ever since the Campbell Committee Inquiry into financial institutions recommended a freeing up of the regulations governing banking licensing for special purpose housing banks. As such, the banks offer attractive partnership opportunities for overseas interests seeking retail finance outlets in Australia, although this prospect has been ruled out for the present by the Hawke Government. But St George has been the recipient of many inquiries from foreign banks, and the group would be well placed in any new talks.

Under the Hawke Government, the building societies will be controlled federally through the Financial Corporations Act, and this will remove the remaining obstacles to interstate building society mergers, which will reduce costs.

From this point of view, the larger societies, at least, welcome the new Government. The Association of Permanent Building Societies said in its just published annual report: "Changes to legislation governing building societies are essential if societies are to progress as competitive, viable and secure institutions under state legislation, fulfilling their commitment to housing finance. Without legislative reform, it is possible that some societies will elect to move out of building society legislation, possibly

into banking or general commercial legislation."

The societies feel strongly that the Fraser Government (later replaced by the Hawke) "competitively favoured other institutions at the expense of building societies." What they have in mind is the freedom given to state electricity authorities, in particular, in borrowings.

"The association is particularly disappointed that the Federal Government did not go far enough in placing commercial tests on state electricity authorities when it decided to free their domestic borrowings from Loan Council control," the annual report says. Other borrowers in the capital markets cannot compete on an equal footing with institutions which are free to borrow without being subject to normal commercial and market pressures.

The association also argues that significant deregulation of the banking system has improved the competitive position of banks in relation to building societies. The banks no longer have to insist on a month's notice for savings banks withdrawals, they can offer small fixed-term deposits for up to four years, and trading banks are no longer constrained by a 12 per cent annual ceiling on lending growth.

This, combined with the impact of the highly successful cash management trusts, which invest on the short-term money market, has made life very difficult for the building societies.

## Olin Corporation

has acquired 63.4% of the Common Stock of

## Philip A. Hunt Chemical Corporation

from

## Turner &amp; Newall PLC

We acted as financial advisor to Turner &amp; Newall PLC in this transaction.

## Goldman, Sachs &amp; Co.

New York Boston Chicago Dallas Detroit  
Houston Los Angeles Memphis Miami  
Philadelphia St. Louis San Francisco  
London Tokyo Zurich

May 2, 1983



All of these securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

April, 1983

## ST. JUDE MEDICAL

721,500 Shares

Common Stock

L. F. ROTHSCHILD, UNTERBERG, TOWBIN

PIPER, JAFFRAY &amp; HOPWOOD

CRAIG-HALLUM, INC.

BEAR, STEARNS & CO. A. G. BECKER PARIBAS BLYTH EASTMAN PAINE WEBBER ALEX. BROWN & SONS  
DILLON, READ & CO. INC. DONALDSON, LUFKIN & JENNETTE DREXEL BURNHAM LAMBERT  
HAMBRECHT & QUIST E. F. HUTTON & COMPANY INC. KIDDER, PEABODY & CO.  
LAZARD FRERES & CO. MERRILL LYNCH WHITE WELD CAPITAL MARKETS GROUP  
PRUDENTIAL-BACHE SHEARSON/AMERICAN EXPRESS INC. SMITH BARNEY, HARRIS UPHAM & CO.  
WERTHEIM & CO., INC. DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC. DAIN BOSWORTH  
MOSELEY, HALLGARTEN, ESTABROOK & WEEDEN INC. ROBERTSON, COLMAN & STEPHENS  
ALLEN & COMPANY F. EBERSTADT & CO., INC. MONTGOMERY SECURITIES OPPENHEIMER & CO., INC.  
ABD SECURITIES CORPORATION ATLANTIC CAPITAL BASLE SECURITIES CORPORATION  
CAZENOVE INC. ROBERT FLEMING KLEINWORT, BENSON

## INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Mr Timothy Haddon has been appointed vice president, AMAX IRON ORE CORP. Mr Haddon will reside in Sydney, Australia.

Mr S. R. Farley has been appointed as marine treaty underwriter with ARAB INSURANCE GROUP based in Bahrain.

Mr Craig Coogan has joined the oil and energy department of the BANK OF SCOTLAND as a senior oil consultant, located at the bank's Houston representative office. Mr Coogan has over

30 years' experience in the exploration and production side of the U.S. oil industry, including over five years vice-president for domestic production and engineering with Ashland Exploration Inc.

Mr CHEMICAL BANK has appointed Mr Raymond de Lestery, vice president, to be general manager of its Paris branch. He was based in New York where he was worldwide account manager for U.S. chemical cor-

porations within the multinational division of Chemical's world banking group. He succeeds Mr James Frost, now promoted to senior vice president, who is transferring to the bank's financial institutions division in New York where he will be in charge of the domestic sector.

THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK NA has made Mr William M. Rowan, vice president, country manager for Switzerland. He

replaces Mr Peter Holzer, vice president, who has returned to New York to head the Chase Private Banking Group. Mr Rowan was formerly country manager, Belgium, a position which has been filled by Mr Joseph Robinet, vice president. Mr Robinet was the European area product development and marketing executive in London. He has been succeeded by Mr Michael A. Gallagher, vice president.

All of these Securities have been offered outside the United States. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issue / May, 1983

U.S. \$100,000,000

## The Nippon Credit Bank (Curaçao) Finance, N.V.

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Payment of principal and interest unconditionally guaranteed by

## The Nippon Credit Bank, Ltd.

(Kabushiki Kaisha Nippon Saiken Shinyo Ginko)

Salomon Brothers International

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

Nippon Credit International (HK) Ltd.

Amro International Limited Banque Nationale de Paris Citicorp Capital Markets Group  
County Bank Limited Daiwa Securities (HK) Ltd.  
The Development Bank of Singapore Ltd Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft  
The Hongkong Bank Group Kidder, Peabody International Limited  
Kleinwort, Benson Limited Merrill Lynch International & Co.  
Morgan Guaranty Ltd Morgan Stanley International  
Swiss Bank Corporation International Limited S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.  
Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale Yamaichi International (HK) Ltd.

## Gulf + Western Industries, Inc.

has sold substantially all the assets and business of

## Consolidated Cigar Company

to a newly-formed corporation owned by the management of Consolidated Cigar Company

The undersigned acted as financial advisor to Gulf + Western Industries, Inc. in this transaction.

Kidder, Peabody & Co.  
Incorporated

## UK COMPANY NEWS

## Second half boosts Kwik-Fit to £2.87m

AFTER a sharp second half upturn in pre-tax profits from £13,000 to £13m, the taxable surplus for Kwik-Fit (Tyres & Exhausts) Holdings for the year to the end of February moved ahead from £1.58m to £2.87m. Turnover improved from £24.37m to £43.39m.

The new financial year has started well, say the directors—in April the offer for Crest International Securities went unconditional.

The net final dividend has been effectively lifted from 0.62p to 0.75p after allowing for this year's one-for-10 scrip. The total is raised from an adjusted 1.24p to the equivalent of 1.43p. Net earnings per 10p share are shown as moving up from 3.57p to 4.89p.

At the trading level, profits rose from £1.07m to £2.42m to which was added £499,970 (£241,106) property and investment income.

## Yorks &amp; Lancs falls

After tax of £13,612, against £34,553, revenue of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Investment Trust came out well down at £10,095 for the six months ended March 31 1983 compared with £73,333.

The interim dividend is omitted (0.65p). The directors say that since January 17 last they have been concentrating on restructuring the company's investment portfolio. This new strategy will produce a lower yield than in previous years and so the final dividend will not be maintained (1.35p).

## G. R. (Hlds.) down

Pre-tax profits at GR (Holdings), merchant, dresser, tanner, dyer, manufacturer and retailer of sheepskins and furs, fell from £11.21m to £10.5m. The six months to December 31 1982. Group turnover was also down from £11.21m to £10.5m. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.6p—last year a final of 8.4p was paid from pre-tax profits of £1.88m.

Tax was down from a re-stated £415,000 to £255,000, leaving attributable profits at £528,174 compared with £599,027. Stated earnings per 25p share were 10.8p (14.9p re-stated).

## Construction side pushes Trafalgar House to £34m

FOLLOWING A surge in the trading surplus on construction activities, taxable profits of Trafalgar House advanced from £27.72m to £33.56m in the first half to March 31 1983.

And with earnings per 20p share given higher at 10.9p (7.4p)—after extraordinary items—the interim dividend is being raised from 3.5p to 4p net. Last year a total of 7.2p was paid from pre-tax profits of £55.56m.

Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman, says there are clearer signs that confidence is returning to the UK economy and he looks forward to reporting "another record year."

Construction profits—including housing—jumped from £18.67m to £29.29m which matches the group's best expectations. There is also an improved outlook for the North Sea steel fabrication business following the Channel Tunnel's relaxation of the oil and gas tax regime in the last Budget. House building figures are better than for many years Mr Brookes notes.

Property and investment profits slumped from £13.7m to £9.46m and Mr Brookes says these activities will become less prominent in the group's results.

## Aberdeen Const. £5.3m rights

THE Aberdeen Construction Group is calling on shareholders for £5.3m net of expenses via a one-for-two rights issue at 100p per share.

The announcement coincided with the group's results for the year to end-December 1982 which showed profits before tax sharply ahead at £4.9m, compared with £3.8m for 1981.

An increased final dividend of 5.4p (4.77p) raises the net total by 0.85p to 9p per 25p share. In the absence of unforeseen circumstances the directors say they expect to pay dividends totalling not less than 6.5p on the enlarged capital for the current year.

Explaining their reasons for the issue the directors say as they propose to retain the Hill of Rubislaw development at

## BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether the dividends are interim or final and the subdivisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

**TODAY**

Interims: BOC, Cambrian and General Securities, Lloyds and Scottish, North Atlantic Securities, TR Technology Investment Trust, Vaux Brothers, Warner Gama.

Finals: Bank of Ireland, Eastwood, Francis Parker, Harcourt, Hewitt, Holt, Lloyd International, Holyrood Rubber.

Shipping, aviation and hotels contributed £5.42m, against £3.8m. Passenger shipping (Conard) seems set for a record year, although cargo conditions continue to be difficult. Mr Brookes adds: The oil and gas interests are advancing as predicted.

During the half year the final consideration for the purchase of Redpath Dorman Long was agreed and the trading results of that company have been included in the figures.

The profit on the sale of Broad

Street House is included in the results but is not significant in relation to the group's pre-tax profits.

Turnover advanced from £68m to £114m.

Taxable profits were struck after interest payable of £7.72m (£2.7m). Tax took £7.72m (£2.7m), the very minority interests of £363,000 (£363,000), extraordinary debits of £713,000 (credits £554,000) and preference dividends of £40,000 (same) leaving attributable profits £24.73m (£17.57m).

See Lex

even after the rights issue money could rise above 60 per cent of the enlarged capital by the time Rubislaw is complete at the end of 1984. However, the group's decision to retain the development could double its net asset value to around 400p per share by the completion date. The medium-term loan is essentially part of the same package, but will also be used to acquire new development sites. In addition, the group is likely to need some of the cash to finance a 13- to 15-year \$50m industrial development south of Aberdeen, which is yet to be finalised, and which will not be kept as an investment. Increased finance charges are likely to offset any profits advanced in the current year.

Assuming the same again in 1983, the shares, up 12p to 240p, stand on prospective ex-rights p/e of 16.5.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

from £11.21m to £10.5m. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.6p—last year a final of 5.4p was paid from pre-tax profits of £1.88m.

Tax was down from a re-stated £415,000 to £325,000, leaving attributable profits at £28,374 compared with £899,027. Stated earnings per 25p share were 10.9p (14.5p re-stated).

by 0.83p to 8p per 25p share. In the absence of unfortunes circumstances the directors say they expect to pay dividends totalling not less than 6.5p on the enlarged capital for the current year.

Explaining their reasons for not issuing the directors say as they propose to retain the bulk of Rubislaw development at :

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	Current payment	Date of payment	Current payment	Date of payment	Current payment	Date of payment	Current payment	Date of payment
Aberdeen Const.	5.4	July 2	4.77	8	7.17	Oil Inspection	1.3	—
Baggeridge Brick int.	1.5	Aug. 9	1.25	—	4.35	Spear & Jackson	nil	—
City of Oxford Trst.	4.1	June 18	3.75	5.55	5.5	Trafalgar House	4	July 1
Coats Patons	2.8	July 1	2.8	4.2	4	Transatlantic Gen. Sec. Int.	4.7	June 28
Dares Estates	0.75	July 11	0.75	1.25	1.25	Whessex Int.	2.5	—
External Inv.	5.5	July 5	4.8	10	9.3	Witton Inv.	1.2	—
Feedex Agriculture	0.65	July 1	0.65	1.15	1.15	Yorks & Lancs.	int. nil	—
G.R. (Holdings)	1.6	July 1	1.6	7	7			
Matthew Hall	0.45	July 1	4.03	6.14	5.12			
Jessups	int.	1	—	—	2			
Kwik-Fit	0.75	—	—	0.62	1.43	1.24		
Lee Cooper	2.1	July 4	1.88	3.33	3.02			

DIVIDENDS A	
Current payment	Date of payment
5.4	July 2
1.5	Aug. 9
4.1	June 18
2.8	July 1
0.75	July 11
5.5	July 5
0.65	July 1
1.6	July 1
0.45	July 1
int.	1
0.75	—
2.1	July 4

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. \*Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. †On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡USM stock. §Commenced USM trading June 1982.

## COATS PATONS PLC

## 1982 RESULTS AND FINAL DIVIDEND

"We can now see the way ahead more clearly and are confident that we shall be in a good position to benefit from any upturn in the world economy; such an improvement seems to be starting in the U.S.A. Although 1983 may still prove to be a difficult year, as a measure of its confidence in the medium term the Board have recommended an increase in the final dividend from 2.6p to 2.8p."

W. D. Coats, Chairman

	1982	1981
£ millions	£ millions	£ millions
Turnover	856.2	800.4
Trading profit	85.5	86.4
Pre-tax profit	76.9	74.8
Capital Exp. (incl. leasing):		
U.K.	12.2	10.7
Total	40.6	35.2
Net cash flow	4.7	(20.0)
Gearing	26%	30%
Earnings per share	14.6p	14.7p
C.C. Earnings per share	5.6p	4.4p

The Directors recommend an increased final dividend of 2.8p per share (1981 2.6p) which together with the interim dividend of 1.4p (1981 1.4p) amounts to 4.2p per share (1981 4.0p). This dividend will be payable on 1st July 1983 to shareholders on the register on 13th May 1983.

The figures for the year to 31 December 1982 are abridged from the Group's full accounts for that period, which have received an unqualified auditor's report and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 25th May, 1983. Further copies will be available from The Secretary, Coats Patons PLC, 155 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5PA.

## Engineering sector aids Matthew Hall

A SUBSTANTIAL increase in the engineering companies' contribution has resulted in Matthew Hall and Co. reporting pre-tax profits up from £10.34m to £11.94m for 1982. Turnover of mechanical and electrical engineering climbed from £22.25m to £41.15m.

Trading profits improved from £3.51m to £7.06m, with mechanical and electrical engineering contributing £2.54m against £2.12m. Oil, gas, coal and chemical engineering increased its share from £2.68m to £2.72m.

The pre-tax figure was after net interest receivable of £4.88m (£4.55m). Tax was higher at £2.96m (£2.05m) and this was after crediting £579,000 (£1.52m) of ACT written off in previous years, and includes £1.64m (£1.8m) of stock relief. The final dividend is raised from 4.05p to 4.94p net for a total up from £1.15p to £1.39p, an increase of 20 per cent.

Interim dividends, which absorb £1.3m (£1.75m), retained profits came out at £5.66m (£6.52m). Stated earnings per 25p share fell from 24.13p to 22.39p on an historical basis, and from 21.94p to 19.29p on a CCA basis.

## comment

Matthew Hall's 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits was rather better than the group's 10 per cent increase in interim forecast. The liveliest performance again came from the oil, gas, coal and chemical engineering division, while the electrical and electronic division was held back less than anticipated by the cost of regrouping its UK operations. Bernard and Burt in the U.S. produced a disappointing 200 per cent increase in earnings of around double that figure, hampered by a wrong estimate on a major contract and depressed markets. But its interests in process plant maintenance and refurbishment mean it should be able to respond quickly to U.S. industrial recovery. In the current year, the mechanical services and engineering divisions have pulled in contracts worth more than £85m and the group expects to see more work in the North Sea resulting from changes in petroleum revenue tax. On that basis, 1983 pre-tax profits could be advanced £4m to £22m, but the group has no immediate plans to use it for acquisitions. However, it does mean a significant engineering and possibly a move for expansion. The shares rose 2p to 294p, where the prospective p/e is 12.5 and the yield, 3.8 per cent.

## Tyson (Contractors)

Following a steep decline in second half taxable profits from £1.03m to £200,000, Tyson (Contractors) Ltd. saw its pre-tax level. Turnover of this Liverpool-based construction engineer slipped from £27.33m to £24.15m.

The net dividend has been lifted from 2.1175p to 2.3262p. Earnings per 10p share were shown to have fallen from 29.05p to 16.34p.

Tax for the year rose from £21,579 to £44,053.

## Frederick Cooper

Despite a fall in pre-tax profits from £120,497 to £91,588 in the six months to January 31 1983, Frederick Cooper (Builders) is maintaining its interim dividend at 0.5p net.

Earnings per 10p share were lower at 1p (1.42p). Turnover moved ahead from £7.45m to £8.42m—the group is a processor of cold rolled steel strip and formed sections. It paid dividends totalling 1.55p for 1981-82 from taxable profits of £56,522.

## Baggeridge ahead

A sharp improvement in interim pre-tax profits from £74,000 to £200,000 has been shown by Baggeridge Brick for the six months to the end of March 1983. Turnover of this brick manufacturer expanded from £2.25m to £3.16m.

The net interim dividend has been lifted from 1.25p to 1.5p net with earnings per 25p share given as improving from 0.9p to 3.6p.

Pre-tax profits were struck after depreciation £138,000 (£131,000) and interest charges of £15,000 (£16,000). Tax amounted to £156,000 against £58,000.

## Sheffield Brick

The rights issue of Sheffield Brick has been taken up in respect of 228,219 ordinary shares, representing 72.49 per cent. The remaining 108,521 shares have been sold in the market for a net premium of £7,068 per share after selling expenses and deduction of the subscription price.

## Rentokil on course

Mr W. H. Westphal, chairman of Rentokil Group, timber preservation and pest control concern, said at the annual meeting that the current year had started well and that the company was on course to produce a healthy profit increase.

## J. Hewitt &amp; Son

Sales of most products at J. Hewitt and Son (Fenton), remained at a higher level than last year, Mr David Hewitt, chairman, told the annual meeting. He anticipated that the results for 1983 would exceed those for 1982.

## Adam Leisure tenders 5m shares at 80p on USM

BY DOMINIC LAWSON

Adam Leisure, distributor of electronic games and video software, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market in about two weeks' time. Stockbrokers Simon and Coates will be offering 5m shares by offer for sale at a minimum tender price of 80p per share which would capitalise the company at £20m, making it one of the largest companies to come to the USM.

All the shares offered have been sold to existing shareholders, and represent 20 per cent of the issued capital. The chairman of Adam Leisure, Mr Christopher Rycroft, said yesterday: "We are coming to the USM in part to realise some of our original investment, but also to enhance our reputation in the industry." Mr Rycroft, one of the founders of the company, will hold about 73 per cent of the equity, but has agreed to waive his dividend for the year to August 1983.

Adam Leisure was formed in 1974 as a distributor of electronic calculators. In 1977 it entered the video games market, and the following year became a 75 per cent owned subsidiary of Bassetts Foods, in order to help finance its growth. But in 1981 Bassetts sold its non-confectionery interests, and so the current owner, Mr Rycroft, who founded the company, bought back the 75 per cent holding for about £204,000.

Adam's recent growth has been spectacular. In the 17 months to August 1980 pre-tax profits amounted to £200,000. For the year to August 1981 profits rose to £1.28m. The company forecasts a pre-tax profit of at least £3m for the current year.

The minimum tender price of 80p puts the shares on a prospective fully taxed p/e of 18.5. The proposed dividend would yield just over 31 per cent. As at February 1983 Adam had net cash of £1.4m, but Mr Rycroft said "little was on the USM we would consider funding acquisitions with paper."

Charterhouse Capital, which has placed 3.6m ordinary 25p shares at 80p each. That includes 1.5m shares being sold by Castle to raise £1.08m of additional working capital.

Castle was formed in 1976 by three directors of the kitchen furniture division of Burco Dean. Despite the severity of the recession in the furniture industry, Castle's pre-tax profits in the four years to July 1982 have grown from £54,000 to £202,000.

In the same period sales have spiralled from under £1m to more than £10m. For the current year to July 1983 the company forecasts that taxable profits will be not less than £1.1m.

At the placing price the company is capitalised at £9.6m, and the fully taxed prospective p/e, based on the weighted average

of shares notionally in issue during the year, is 18.43. The gross dividend yield based on annual dividends totalling 2.5p net, is 4.46 per cent.

All of Castle's kitchen products are manufactured exclusively for the group by the West German company Rational, and are sold under the Castle name throughout more than 500 specialist kitchen retailers.

In the summer of 1981 Castle began distributing bathroom products, and now sells a wide variety of complete bathroom suites through a network of 280 specialist dealers.

Castle attributes its success particularly to its close involvement with suppliers in the design process, and its stability to deliver to anywhere in the UK out of stock within three days.

In 1980 Charterhouse Development Capital, part of the Charterhouse Group, made a £337,000 investment, in return for a 27 per cent stake in the equity. After the placing CDC will hold

17.3 per cent of the equity, worth £1,956m. The directors intend will be just over 30 per cent.

Brokers to the issue are Grieson Grant. Dealings should begin on May 17.

## comment

Castle (GB) may not be as high tech as most of the companies currently streaming onto the USM, but its compound growth rate of 76 per cent over the past four years, is a record of which many electrical specialists would be proud. However the share price takes full account of that. Virtually all Castle's products are imported, so there is always the possibility of currency mismatching. The bathroom side is not yet profitable but should be next financial year, with consequent benefits to overall margins. An interesting sideline is the company's 11 per cent interest in a French company, which makes bath out of SMC—as light as acrylic which is as rigid as cast iron. Watch out, Spring Ram.

NOTICE OF ISSUE Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

## EAST ANGLIAN WATER COMPANY

(Originally incorporated in England by the Lowestoft Water, Gas and Market Act 1953, the name of the Company being changed on 1st January, 1982 by the East Anglian Water Order 1981.)

## OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £4,000,000

## 7 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1988

(which will mature for redemption at par on 30th June, 1988)

## Minimum Price of Issue — £101 per £100 of Stock

yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, 23-90 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended in its application to the Company) of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent, but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent, in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The preferential dividends on the Stock will be at the rate of 7 per cent, per annum and no tax will be deducted therefrom. Under the imputation tax system, the associated tax credit at the current rate of Advance Corporation Tax (37ths of the distribution) is equal to a rate of 3 per cent, per annum.

Tenders for the Stock must be made on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus and must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for and sent in a sealed envelope to Deloitte Haskins & Sells, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 207, 128, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX marked "Tender for East Anglian Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 18th May, 1983. The balance of the purchase money will be payable on or before Tuesday, 28th June, 1983. The balance of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from—

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,  
10, Old Jewry, London EC2R 8EA.  
Barclays Bank PLC,  
61, London Road North, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1LT.

or from the Offices of the Company at 163, High Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1HT and 84, York Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 2LZ.

NOTICE OF ISSUE Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

## NORTH SURREY WATER COMPANY

(Incorporated in England on 2nd August, 1963, by the South-West Suburban Water Act, 1963.)

## OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £2,000,000

## 7 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1988

(which will mature for redemption at par on 30th June, 1988)

## Minimum Price of Issue — £101 per £100 of Stock

yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, 23-90 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended in its application to the Company) of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent, but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent, in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The preferential dividends on the Stock will be at the rate of 7 per cent, per annum and no tax will be deducted therefrom. Under the imputation tax system, the associated tax credit at the current rate of Advance Corporation Tax (37ths of the distribution) is equal to a rate of 3 per cent, per annum.

Tenders for the Stock must be made on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus and must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for and sent in a sealed envelope to Deloitte Haskins & Sells, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 207, 128, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX marked "Tender for North Surrey Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 18th May, 1983. The balance of the purchase money will be payable on or before Tuesday, 28th June, 1983. The balance of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from—

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,  
10, Old Jewry, London EC2R 8EA.  
Barclays Bank PLC,  
P.O. Box 6, 71, High Street, Staines, Middlesex TW16 4PS.

or from the Principal Office of the Company, The Causeway, Staines, Middlesex, TW16 3BX.



## UK COMPANY NEWS

Coats Patons  
£2m up year end

SECOND half pre-tax profits of Coats Patons, threads, yarns, fabrics, fashion garments group, moved ahead from £46.7m to £50.5m and lifted the figure for the whole of 1982 to £76.9m, compared with £74.8m in the previous 12 months.

Turnover for the full period rose £58.5m to £866.2m and the dividend is increased to 4.2p (4p) net per 25p share with a final payment of 2.2p.

Sales for the first quarter of the current year are unexciting, the directors say, and they feel the year could be another difficult one.

An analysis of turnover and trading profits—down slightly at £35.5m (£36.4m)—shows: leisure and craft products £218.5m (£191.1m) and £28.4m (£21.7m); retail shops/fabrics £32.1m (£35.2m) and £3.1m (£3.9m); home sewing products £235.5m (£194.1m) and £41.4m (£37.2m); engineering and decessing £67.5m (£53.3m) and £14.2m (£18.2m); industrial sewing products £179.8m (£177.0m) and £2.8m (£2.8m); yarns and fabrics £59.5m (£73.7m) and £14.2m (£22.2m); leisure wear/underwear £58m (£58.1m) and £0.1m (£0.1m); restructuring and start-up costs £7.3m (£5.5m); and £7.7m loss (£6.5m loss); central research and management expenses £4.9m (£5m); inter-company sales £3.5m (£3.1m).

Directors say the group's major UK businesses performed well in the market conditions which prevailed. Jaeger and Country Casuals and the branded knitwear companies, comprising the retail shop/fashion wear sector, turned in good results and Patons hand-knittings realised a considerable turnaround with further progress expected.

Interest charged for the year amounted to £18.5m (£19.5m) and tax took £11m, against £10m. Minority interests accounted for £5.8m (£5.6m) and after increased extraordinary debit of £14.5m (£13.2m), the attributable balance came out down from £35.4m to £28.6m.

Extraordinary items comprising £5.5m of restructuring, involving the closure of two major units in Paisley, and £3.1m of goodwill written off.

Before these items earnings per share are given at 14.5p, compared with 14.7p.

See Lex

## 128 companies wound up

Compulsory winding up orders against 128 companies were made by Mr Justice Harman in the High Court.

They were: Ramkup, D. T. Perkins (Painting Contractors), Great Eastern Chemical Company (Peterborough), Globe Investigations, Avidos Films, Talcon, Khyber Restaurants, Dawson Print Group (formerly Whitworth), Quikie Properties, HPA Aviation (International), Bromley Computers, Datamart, Shaw Keener Contracts, Billerica Transport Services (Machinery Installations), WVC Decorators, Hones Haulage, Pro-Sport Imports, Millards Services, W. A. Skinner & Co, KR Automatics, Alpinegrove, Senate Public Relations, Reg George, Nugall, Hadchrit, Hannerchain, BTH (Programming), R. Butcher (Surrey), Zinctore, Powerclean (Portsmouth), Magnum Onus, RE Construction, Surrey and Hants Homes, Ventilation Equipment and Condition, London Dampcourse (Midlands), Dene Holdings, Mobile Fork Lift Truck Services, Dazzling Nite (Mayfair), Idaglen, Limehouse Publications, Drewbourne, Records Promotions, TV Records, Witbur, Kelsogate, John Bevan Car Sales, Gridix Ceilings & Linings, QED, RJR Holdings (North West), Owens (Building & Joinery) Company, Bridgeview, Brook Garage (Chatham), Scollright Engineering, A. E. Lowery & Co, Anthony Young, Raymond Cove Transport, Esabee Computing, MC Engineering Company (Farnham), Merryfield Kit-

chens, World Harvest, Boilerplan, M. (Manchester), H. M. (Yorkshire), J. P. Pritchard (Chemist), Bristol Air Cargo Containers (Engineering), Alan Pond Regional, Anco (Chemical), Dumfries, Woolwich Realisations, Alpha Computer Systems, Wallpaper Wandering, Luxworth & Henstock, W. R. Nicholson, P. Murray (Sandhurst), Bardfield Plant Hire, The Crimmon Company, Suffolk Newlay (London), Dice and Biss and Pieces, Arkhouse Gowns, Legall, Yards Investments, Sparkthorne, Slayreel, Centre One, Towardel, A. Parker (Laminates), Potton Laboratories, Sealburn (Menwear), Bache Rayleigh Securities, SR Civil Engineering, Elstree Nursing Home, JDL Consultants, Studio PL, Alpine Ceramics, Cliftonstone, Broadrick, Clark & Parker (Brookley), Crick Garage, P. J. Cook (Transport), Brooker & Jackson, Pillwise, Spooker, Badia Associates, Honeyway, Track Printing Services, Liverpool, London Ribbons & Carbons, Gee Construction, Swallow, The Gifts, Wetwood Recordings, Dreamer, H. E. Smith & Son (Hauliers), Sidney C. Lacey, Bottoms Up, P. J. (London), M. & J. CA Boulton (Electrics) and MCE Alarms, RM Cook, Informa (UK), Roland Royle Howarth, IRM (Catering), Carter Nash Cameron, Flairair, Brimpage, Pridcrest, Top-O International Dress Manufacturers, Ebbcourt.

A compulsory order made on April 25 against Priceland was rescinded and the petition dismissed by consent.

## Jessups restores interim payout

THE CONTINUING increase in the sales of Vauxhall cars has ensured that the recovery seen in the second half at Jessups has been maintained in the first six months of the current year. In the period to February 28 1983, pre-tax profits on ordinary activities were £219,700 compared with losses of £260,700. Year-end profits were £247,610.

Turnover of this Romford-based motor vehicle dealer and body builder and leasing specialist, was up from £15.15m to £19.45m. Cost of sales was £17.98m against £14.22m, and other operating expenses totalled £275,500 compared with £313,900.

Interest payable amounted to £370,300 (£377,300), with vehicles on lease accounting for £196,500 (£160,700) and general funding interest being £148,000 (£166,300).

There was a tax charge of £29,000 this time, leaving attributable profits of £190,700 (£290,700 loss). The interim dividend has been restored after a lapse of one year, the payment being 1p, and directors forecast a maintained final of 2p.

Mr Alan Jessup, the chairman, commenting on the improved sales in the opening half, says there is an increasing acceptance of the Vauxhall-Opel range, further extended by the introduction of the Nova to the small car market.

He says the group performance for March and April was satisfactory and the trend for the year is good.

## Royal Insurance continues recovery in first quarter

THE recovery seen in the second half of 1982 at Royal Insurance has continued into the first quarter of 1983. The group reports pre-tax profits of £8.2m against losses of £5.5m. Year-end profits were £96.5m.

With a tax credit of £7.1m (£7.7m) and minorities unchanged at £200,000, net profit attributable to shareholders climbed from £4m to £16.1m, with earnings per 25p share rising from 2.1p to 6.5p.

Underwriting losses were little changed at £64.2m (£64.1m) at the year-end they had increased from £102.9m to £166.1m. Investment income allocated to general insurance operations was up from £43.2m to £47.2m, but there was a general insurance loss of £17m—£3.9m lower than in the corresponding period last year.

A breakdown of these shows U.S. losses more than doubled at £23.3m (£10.9m). Both the UK and Canada swung round into profit—the UK contribution being £400,000 (£11.3m losses) and Canada's being £4.5m (£1.5m losses). In Holland, profits were halved at £100,000, and in Australia there were losses of £200,000 (£700,000 profit).

Premiums written on general insurance totalled £498.8m (£432.1m) in the first three months. Long-term insurance profit was up from £3.5m to

## Spear &amp; Jackson final passed as losses hit £1.75m

NO FINAL dividend has been declared by Spear and Jackson International for the year to January 1 1983 after pre-tax losses of £1.75m were shown compared with previous profits of £384,000. Turnover of this maker of steel, saws and hand tools slipped from £30.56m to £28.58m.

Trading losses, the directors point out, include £664,000 redundancy costs. They say that when such exceptional costs are eliminated the underlying trading performance during the final quarter showed an "encouraging improvement" compared with the preceding two quarters.

They say that there has been an encouraging start to the current year and provided pre-ent economic conditions prevail, they have some confidence that the group is on the road to recovery.

At the halfway stage pre-tax losses amounted to £254,000 against profits of £330,000. An interim of 1p net was paid which is the total for the year, against last year's 6.575p. For the year losses per 25p share were given as 30.8p against 7.1p earnings.

Interest payable decreased from £248,000 to £240,000. After a tax credit of £109,000 (debit £45,000) and extraordinary reorganisation and closure debits this time of £178,000, and including minorities, there was an attributable deficit of £1.81m (profits £279,000).

Tool makers Spear and Jackson's dramatic fall into the red in 1982 is largely due to a upsurge of the North American recession, in particular the low number of housing starts. Its U.S. and Canadian subsidiaries supply tools to the lumber industry which is in turn dependent on the construction industry. Exports from the UK to the U.S. were also hit. But 1983 has seen a marked upturn in orders with projected housing starts in the U.S. up from 800,000 to 1.7m for the year and margins are up on the higher volume of business. In the UK a further 200 jobs were shed in 1982 as profits declined further but, again, the signs are for an upturn in 1983. Spear and Jackson has been looking for some diversification form garden tools and has come up with a series of garden products, a new patented micro-organic fertiliser Flourish which is supposed to lessen the frequency of watering and help prevent plants becoming pot bound. It has healthy margins and could make a significant contribution to turnover in two to three years. Spear and Jackson has continued its conservative accounting during the recession taking £664,000 redundancy costs above the line last year. Gearing was 30 per cent at the year end with net borrowings up £1m to £2.5m. The worst seems to be over and a profit of from £700,000 upwards is expected in 1983. The share price fell 2p to 71p.

## Feedex down but holds dividend

FOLLOWING a fall from £231,000 to £170,000 at halfway, taxable profits of animal feeding stuffs and agricultural machinery concern Feedex Agricultural Industries finished 1982 at £255,000, £77,000 down on the previous year. Turnover expanded from £33.97m to £39.11m.

The directors say the group as a whole experienced mixed fortunes during 1982. There was a notably strong performance by the feed division, good results from the livestock and the merchanting and agricultural services sectors, but losses were incurred by the engineering and newly-formed energy divisions.

Despite current problems of the pig industry, which in the board's view will only ease slowly, there is every reason to hope that the group as a whole will be able to better its 1982 performance in the current year.

Directors say there has been a significant turnaround in the engineering sector and much has already been done to improve the position in other areas of the company's business that have experienced difficult trading conditions in recent years.

With the prospect of improved trading conditions beginning to emerge, directors are maintaining the dividend at 1.15p net per 10p share with a same-again final payment of 0.65p.

Interest charges took £323,000 (£324,000) and after tax, £4,000 (£78,000 credit), minorities £14,000 (£15,000) and an extraordinary debit of £4,000 (£26,000)—closure of Green Hamerton Hatcheries—the attributable balance was £294,000, compared with £418,000.

Earnings per share are shown as down from 3.76p to 2.57p. The feed division achieved an excellent performance and livestock division also had a successful year, the directors state.

As was indicated at the time of the interim report, the engineering division had a poor year, incurring losses of £350,000 (£73,000).

## FIRST QUARTER-1983

## Ultramar

GOOD RESULTS  
AND A BRIGHT FUTURE

## Review of Ultramar Group Financial Results and Operations.

## Summary of financial results

	First Quarter 1983 £ million	First Quarter 1982 £ million
Turnover	423.0	343.8
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	47.9	43.7
Net profit	25.2	20.1
Cash flow from operations	37.1	33.3
Capital expenditures	52.0	36.3

## Extracts from the Chairman's Statement:

'For the first quarter of 1983, the financial results of the Ultramar Group held up very well despite the depressed oil price structure.'

'Our Indonesian operations were again the major profit contributor. Good results were also reported by the North Sea and Western Canada producing companies and by the U.K. marketing operation. In contrast, our refining and marketing operations in Eastern Canada and California were disappointing. Strong competition for sales in these two markets led to an erosion of operating margins.'

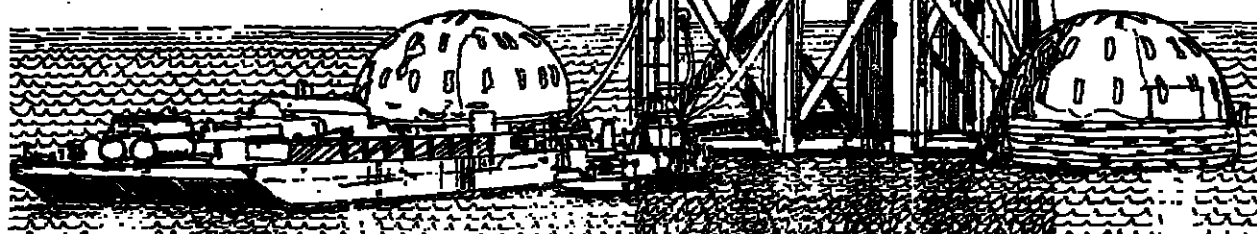
'The Contract for the acquisition of Pittston Petroleum Inc. was signed on 4th May 1983. Pittston markets approximately 90,000 barrels per day of light and heavy fuel oils in the North Eastern United States and in Eastern Canada. The purchase price is expected to be about \$100 million including working capital and inventories at current values.'

'Beginning in the third quarter, we expect to see the initial contribution from some of the projects in our capital expenditure programme and also the benefit of the measures we have taken recently to improve profitability.'

ARNOLD LORBER  
Chairman

11th May 1983

The construction of the Maureen Platform  
nears completion



**Ultramar**  
Morgan House, 1 Angel Court  
London EC2R 7AU

For a copy of the full Review of Group Financial Results and Operations for the Three Months to 31st March 1983 please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary at the above address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FT.12.5

R. CARTWRIGHT  
(HOLDINGS)  
p.l.c.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1982	1981
Sales	10,744,554	8,690,762
Profit before tax	891,306	682,630
Earnings per share	9.52p	8.13p
Dividend per share	4.625p	4.5p

- THE CHAIRMAN, MR. J. C. NORTHAM:
- It is encouraging that turnover this year has at last seen a significant improvement in both value and volume with a corresponding improvement in profit. This is further vindication of the tough measures taken over the past two years. This turnover has been achieved with a modest reduction in Bank borrowings.
  - Following a slow start the end of the year showed a steady improvement in most companies. The integration of Erebos into the lock and pressing factory took longer than anticipated but most problems had been solved by the last quarter.
  - Export sales at £1.21m were much better than anything previously achieved.
  - A company in the Group are working full time and in most cases with healthy order books. Although it is still too early to say that we are finally out of the recession, the signs are certainly very encouraging.
- Manufacturers of Door Furniture, Window Fittings, Locks, Aluminium and Zinc Alloy Die Castings, Aluminium and Brass Hot Stampings, Steel Partitioning and Trade Injection Mouldings.

## MBS

## MICRO BUSINESS SYSTEMS plc

"Our aim is to be the best service company in the supply, distribution and maintenance of computer terminals and microcomputers"

Results for the year ended Dec 31	1982	1981	Increase
Turnover	6,719	2,661	152
Trading Profit	821	250	228
Profit after taxation and extraordinary item*	943	250	257
Earnings per share	14.2p	5.2p	173
Dividends per share	1.0p	—	—
Assets Employed	4,009	1,245	222

\*No taxation is payable on current year profit

In his Annual Report, the Chairman, Mr Clive Richards, states: "The targets set for the MBS Group for 1983 show a significant increase on 1982. Although it is early days, the targets are currently being exceeded and I look forward to reporting to you further very satisfactory progress at the end of the year."

The Annual General Meeting of MBS is being held today on HMS Belfast. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from: St Mary Abchurch House, 129 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AX.







## UK COMPANY NEWS

## Ultramar first quarter advance

FOR THE first three months of 1983 petroleum exploration and development group Ultramar returned pre-tax profits of \$47.2m, an improvement of \$4.2m over the figures for the same period last year, with the Indonesian operations again the major profit contributor.

Good results were also reported by the North Sea and West Canada producing companies and by the UK marketing operation.

In contrast, the refining and marketing operations in East Canada and California were disappointing. Strong competition in these two markets led to an erosion of operating margins.

The directors foresee a gradual improvement in the group's downstream operations for the second quarter but lower prices and a smaller number of scheduled LNG deliveries will reduce the second quarter profit of the Indonesian operation.

Group turnover for the quarter improved by \$79.2m to \$428m.

Pre-tax profits were struck after deductions of \$4m (\$6.5m) for interest, \$13.3m (\$10.6m) for distribution costs and \$11.7m (\$8.3m) for administration expenses. Interest received added \$5.6m (\$7m), fixed asset disposals \$1.4m (\$nil) and miscellaneous income \$1m (\$0.5m).

Stated earnings per 25p share

came through at 20.9p, against an adjusted 17.8p.

## comment

Ultramar's first quarter results, depressed by the low fuel consumption during the northern hemisphere's recent mild winter, have led most analysts to scale down their year-end forecasts made at the time of the successful \$108m rights issue in February. There is now more of a consensus around \$10m net profits for 1983. The company's two loss-making operations, in California and Eastern Canadian marketing and refining, suffered from cut-throat competition between the petroleum companies. Canada's results also included a stock loss of about \$5m which was accentuated by the government

subsidy system. Nor has Canada felt any of the improvement noted in California over the past five weeks. The Indonesian upstream operations, which still account for about half of total profits, have their prices linked to the Opec posted price and have thus suffered from the recent price cut. But Ultramar's medium-term prospects into 1984 look brighter. It has a 6 per cent stake in the North Sea's Maureen field due to come on stream in the last quarter. New cracking equipment at the Quebec refinery will allow it to over-compensate for the capacity to be lost by the closure of the Newfoundland refinery. The share price, unchanged yesterday at 53p, is 7.8 times the prospective net profits after allowing for dilution.

## MINING NEWS

## Phelps and the new copper scene

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

SHARES of the base metal producers moved sharply ahead yesterday in line with hopes of the profit recovery prospects held out by the strengthening metal prices. Copper, for instance, now stands at a three-year high on the London Metal Exchange and is at its highest since August 1981 in the U.S.

While it remains to be seen how justified is the rise in metal prices and, indeed, how far it may go, the views on copper and the producing industry given by Mr George E. Munroe, chairman of America's Phelps Dodge are of particular interest.

Previously the biggest copper producer in the U.S., Phelps was forced to close down its entire copper mining operations last April in the worst year experienced by the industry since the early-1930s. Although Phelps has now restored its operations, it believes that copper has become a tougher business.

Stating this in a recent address to the New York Society of Analysts, Mr Munroe explained that environmental laws had resulted in sharply increased costs for the U.S. producers.

More importantly, the state-controlled mines in South America and Africa were not prepared to regulate copper production in line with market demands, but tended to maximise it for political, employment and foreign exchange reasons, a point emphasised by others in the industry.

He also pointed to a slowing in the annual growth rate of copper consumption, although he still expected it to continue to grow throughout this decade at about 2 per cent per annum.

On the other side of the coin, Zambia's production costs are high and the two big Chilean mines face declining ore grades

and large capital programmes in order to maintain capacity. Furthermore, much higher prices will be needed to justify the development of new mines to meet future demand.

"That, of course, augurs well for the future of existing low-cost production," said Mr Munroe, having pointed out that Phelps is one of the world's lower-cost producers. The company's cost of the March quarter were "substantially" below 79 cents per pound of copper.

It lost \$3.9m (\$2.5m) in the March quarter, but its profit gearing to higher copper prices is illustrated by the fact that when at full production—about 325,000 tons a year—each 1 cent rise in the copper price (currently around 82 cents) produces about \$4.4m in net income on an annual basis.

Phelps reckons that copper would still be cheap at \$1.02 per lb, which would add over \$90m to earnings, and would still be far below the price needed to justify any major new mine development.

However, like others in the industry, Mr Munroe sees little likelihood of further large-scale base metal mines being developed over the next few years. Instead, the trend is towards the small and medium-sized operations that can be developed with less capital and give a much quicker return on investment. To this end the company is pressing on with its small mines division which is currently mining gold and silver.

It has also acquired a 64.3 per cent stake in a small Chilean copper-gold mining company. Other prospects include an exploration agreement whereby

Phelps can earn a 48 per cent interest in a copper-zinc-silver-lead deposit in Turkey where the first phase of the drilling programme has disclosed about 20m tons of high grade copper-zinc ore.

Meanwhile, Phelps has streamlined its business, thereby reducing costs, and is selling off assets not needed for longer-range plans. As already reported, agreement in principle has been reached for the sale of the communications business for \$50m and attempts are being made to sell the one-third stake in the Australian Woodlawn base metal mine.

Company policy is to maintain its position as a leading low-cost producer of copper; diversify into a broader range of metals and minerals; and reduce indebtedness. But copper prices remain the key to its fortunes.

## International round-up

CANADA'S Northgate Exploration has filed its final prospectus with the Ontario Securities Commission for the issue of 2.66m units, each comprising one common share plus a one-half common share purchase warrant; two "half" warrants will enable the holder to purchase one common share at C\$8.25 (about 48p) between July 6 1983 and April 30 1985. In an underwriting agreement, Wood Gundy and Burns Fry, both of Toronto, have agreed to purchase the units at C\$8.25 per unit. Net proceeds of the issue are estimated at C\$19.7m. The existing shares were 39p yesterday.

Australian mining and investment group North Broken Hill made net profits, before extraordinary items, of A\$13.12m

(£7.25m) for the nine months ended March 31. This compares with A\$7.49m earned in the same period of last year. Higher prices were obtained for increased sales of silver and there were benefits of cost-saving measures, but dividend income declined.

Junior Australian explorer, Argosy Gold Mines, has now changed its name to Southern Ventures. It has acquired a 47.5 per cent interest in four mineral claims and 10 gold mining leases in the Yarral area of Western Australia's Eastern Goldfields.

The Swan Resources group and BHM Holdings are to mount a joint exploration programme for gold and base metals over an area of some 15 sq kilometres

at Mt Grant, near Goldsworthy, in Western Australia's Pilbara. BHM can earn up to an 80 per cent interest in the area by funding exploration costs.

Australia's Kitchener Mining has been told by the Australian Government that no objections are raised under the foreign investment policy to the proposed joint venture agreement with Swiss Finance Corporation for the development of a gold mine on the Bamboo Creek tenements in Western Australia.

This is on condition that Australian equity in the venture is raised to 51 per cent prior to mine development. Swiss Finance Corporation has agreed and development of the mine is expected shortly to commence with completion by June 1984.

## Yearling bonds total £20.4m

Yearling bonds totalling £20.4m at 10 1/4 per cent redeemable on May 16 1984 have been issued this week by the following local authorities.

Aldwick District Council £5.5m; Blackburn Borough Council £0.5m; Leicester (City of) £1m; Ower BC £0.4m; Rotherham DC £0.5m; Tonbridge DC £0.25m; Warrington DC £1.25m; Yewitry Hatfield £0.5m; Wrexham (City of) £0.5m; Amber Valley DC £0.5m; Cumberland and Kylesyth DC £0.25m; Mendip DC £0.25m; Newham (London Borough of) £0.5m; Rotherham (City of) £0.5m; Rochdale (Metropolitan Borough of) £0.5m; Taunton Deane DC £0.5m; Welwyn Hatfield £0.25m; Liverpool (City of) £2m; Edinburgh (City of) £1.5m; Lambeth (London Borough of) £0.5m; Allerdale BC £0.5m; Brent (London Borough of) £0.5m; Redbridge (London Borough of) £0.5m; Kensington and Chelsea (Royal Borough of) £0.75m; Medway BC £0.5m; Aberdeen (City of) £0.5m; Cardiff (City of) £2m; Cynon Valley (Borough of) £0.25m; South Bedfordshire £0.25m; Warwickshire County Council £1m; Eastleigh (Borough of) and Torbay DC have issued £0.25m and £0.75m, respectively, of 10 1/4 per cent bonds at par for redemption on May 1985. Basildon DC has issued £0.5m of 10 1/4 per cent bonds at par for redemption on November 7 1984.

## Overseas lift for Lee Cooper

A MAJOR contribution to improved profits at Lee Cooper Group has been made by the French subsidiary, which together with those in Belgium and Tunisia, has performed particularly well. The group's taxable surplus rose from £9.0m to £10.4m for 1982 on turnover increased from £77m to £88.48m.

Indications are that prospects for economic recovery are much brighter, say the directors, although they point out that the international recession is both serious and complex. Whatever the short-term problems, the potential international market remains encouraging for this maker of jeans and casual wear and the group is structured to take advantage of opportunities for further expansion.

Both turnover and profits are at record levels, despite worldwide recession and a highly competitive environment. The directors note that the effect of the recession appears to have been less marked in continental Western Europe than in the UK and Scandinavia. They report that after returning to profits in 1981, the UK subsidiary incurred a further heavy loss in 1982.

The year's net dividend has been lifted from 3.02p to 3.33p with a higher final of 2.1p against 1.87p. Earnings per 25p share were shown as slip-

ping from 27.75p to 25.85p. At the trading level, profits increased from £10.31m to £10.45m and were subject to lower interest charges of £495,000 against £122m.

Tax amounted to £5.51m (£4.57m). Minorities took £243,000 (£214,000) and there were reduced extraordinary credits of £46,000 (£22,000) which left attributable profits slightly down from £4.73m to £4.04m.

## comment

Lee Cooper struggled through a tough year of closures and redundancies in the UK and still came out on top with group profits up 10 per cent to £10m thanks to a strong performance in Continental Europe. The UK made a loss of £1.7m of which 11m went on the closure costs of its Harold Hill factory and the rationalisation of Helston where

manufacturing is now concentrated. The UK is still suffering from an oversupply of denim as manufacturers try to off load excessive stock at cheap prices. Though the cut price jeans store Dicky Dicks ended up in the hands of the receiver, there are many other outlets which keep the pressure on margins. Lee Cooper has just 3 to 4 per cent of the UK market and has been frustrated so far in eating into the market share of leaders Levi and Wrangler. In Continental Europe the picture is much rosier, especially in France and Belgium where Lee Cooper is a market leader with 10 per cent of the market and where demand has held up through the recession. With prospects of a recovery looking brighter Lee Cooper could make £11m in 1983. The share price increased 7p to 123p and still looks rather undervalued on a prospective fully taxed p/e of about 4.



## FIRST QUARTER RESULTS FOR 1983

The results for the first quarter are set out below; these should not be taken as providing a reliable indication of the outcome for the year as a whole.

	3 months to 31 March 1983	3 months to 31 March 1982	Year 1982
	(unaudited) £m	(unaudited) £m	(audited) £m
<b>General Insurance:</b>			
Premiums Written	498.8	432.1	1,700.2
Underwriting Balance	-64.2	-64.1	-166.1
Investment Income allocated to General Insurance operations	47.2	43.2	180.8
<b>General Insurance Result</b>	-17.0	-20.9	14.7
Long-term Insurance Profit	4.1	3.3	13.6
Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves	19.3	11.9	60.5
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	2.8	2.2	7.7
<b>Profit before Taxation</b>	9.2	-3.5	96.5
Less Taxation	7.1 (credit)	7.7 (credit)	22.6
<b>Minority Interests</b>	0.2	0.2	1.0
<b>Net Profit attributable to the Shareholders (Pence per share)</b>	16.1 (8.5p)	4.0 (2.1p)	72.9 (38.7p)
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>	£1,324m	£832m	£1,225m

**Exchange Rates**  
Foreign currencies have been translated according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were:—

	USA	Canada	Australia	Netherlands
	\$1.53	\$1.87	\$1.62	Fls4.07
	\$1.85	\$2.23	\$1.70	Fls4.75
				Fls4.66

Changes in exchange rates adversely affected the underwriting balance by £7.9m and benefited the total investment income by £7.2m.

**Investment Income**  
Total investment income of £66.5m increased in sterling terms by 21%; allowing for the changes in the rates of exchange the growth was almost 8%.

**Long-term Insurance**  
The profit of £4.1m (£3.3m) represents a quarter of the estimated contribution from long-term insurance profit coming through for the whole year.

**General Insurance**  
Premium income rose by over 15% in sterling; allowing for the effect of currency changes, the increase was 3½%. Details for the individual operating companies are as follows:—

In the United States premium income grew in dollar terms by 1.8%; this was more than accounted for by the recent acquisition of Milbank Insurance Company. The operating ratio was 117.9% (115.2%). All major lines with the exception of homeowners and commercial

automobile worsened. Our firm pricing action in the competitive market conditions led as anticipated to some loss of business in commercial lines. This action and other programmes now in place should however be reflected in improved results later in the year.

Premium volume increased by 6.7% in the UK. Whilst weather losses were lower than in the corresponding period last year they were still considerably above the level of preceding years. In the commercial classes there are some signs of a greater sense of realism in the market place, and we continue to maintain our firm attitude to realistic pricing.

The significant improvement in the result in Canada to which we have previously referred has continued. There was still some loss of business but less than in 1982.

Despite the difficult conditions the premium volume for Royal but increased by 11% in local currencies and the insurance result was virtually unchanged.

The result for Royal Nederland was also little changed with adverse experience in the competitive motor account offsetting improvements in other lines of business. Premium income fell by 4% in local currency terms.

The result in Australia was seriously impacted by the net loss of £3.4m from the bushfires in Victoria and South Australia. The underlying improvement continues.

The deterioration in the Royal Re result was mainly accounted for by a number of major losses in the non-treaty business.

## UK-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**—Indices of industrial production, manufacturing output (1975=100); engineering orders (1975=100); retail sales volume (1975=100); retail sales value (1975=100); registered unemployment (excluding school leavers) and unfilled vacancies (000s). All seasonally adjusted.

	Indl. prod.	Mfg. output	Eng. orders	Retail sales vol.	Retail sales val.	Unemp.	Vacs.
1982							
1st qtr.	101.9	98.9	89	106.5	145.1	2,743	107
2nd qtr.	101.6	98.2	84	106.9	145.7	2,637	111
3rd qtr.	101.5	97.3	82	110.7	154.5	2,513	115
4th qtr.	101.5	97.3	82	110.7	154.5	2,513	115
1983							
1st qtr.	102.5	99.7	84	111.1	153.1	3,003	124
January	102.5	99.7	84	111.1	153.1	3,003	124
February	103.6	98.6		111.1	148.9	3,001	124
March	103.6	98.6		111.9	155.1	2,626	126
April						2,622	126

**OUTPUT**—By market sector: consumer goods, investment goods, intermediate goods (materials and fuels); engineering output, metal manufacture, textiles, leather and clothing (1975=100); housing starts (000s, monthly average).

	Consumer goods	Invest. goods	Intmd. goods	Eng. output	Metal mfg.	Textiles	Hous. starts
1982							
1st qtr.	92.5	90.7	121.2	86.1	81.2	74.3	14.7
2nd qtr.	91.9	91.4	122.0	86.4	77.9	72.5	17.5
3rd qtr.	91.4	91.2	122.5	86.3	72.5	71.3	17.1
4th qtr.	92.1	92.3	122.5	86.3	72.5	71.3	17.1
1983							
1st qtr.	91.9	91.0	122.0	86.0	73.0	74.0	19.9
February	92.0	89.0	122.0	85.0	72.0	72.0	15.5
March	91.9	89.0	120.0	85.0	68.0	68.0	17.1
April	92.0	89.0	124.0	85.0	69.0	74.0	12.1

**EXTERNAL TRADE**—Indices of export and import volume (1975=100); visible balance (£m); oil balance (£m); terms of trade (1975=100); exchange reserves (£m); Export Import Visible Current Oil Terms Resv. volume volume balance balance balance trade US\$bn.

	Export volume	Import volume	Visible balance	Current balance	Oil balance	Terms trade	Resv. balance
1982							
2nd qtr.	131.4	129.2	+1.23	+803	+858	101.3	17.70
3rd qtr.	125.1	123.7	+1.40	+847	+1,313	108.5	18.30
4th qtr.	131.4	124.0	+1.26	+1,709	+1,736	95.3	17.00
1983							
1st qtr.	130.7	128.1	+1.25	+1,404	+1,390	99.7	18.20
February	132.4	125.9	+1.21	+1,430	+1,398	98.5	18.50
March	132.4	122.5	+1.25	+1,688	+1,642	98.4	18.00
April	135.0	122.5	+1.25	+1,687	+1,692	99.7	17.00

**FINANCIAL**—Money supply M1 and sterling M3, bank advances in sterling to the private sector (three months growth at annual rate); domestic credit expansion (three months growth at annual rate); HP, new credit; all seasonally adjusted. Minimum lending rate (end period).

	M1 %	M3 %	Bank adv.	DCE %	BS inflow	HP	MLR %
1982							
1st qtr.	2.1	8.2	26.2	+3.184	967	2.157	
2nd qtr.	15.2	12.6	28.3	+4.229	1,796	2.396	
3rd qtr.	19.0	12.3	26.9	+5.032	2,139	2.548	
4th qtr.	17.5	12.5	26.6	+2,020	437	852	
1983							
1st qtr.	14.2	14.0	22.6	+1,430	688	840	
February	14.2	14.0	22.6	+1,430	688	840	
March	17.4	12.3	25.4	+1,131	763	896	
April	15.9	9.8	22.2	+1,073	490	874	

**INFLATION**—Indices of earnings (Jan 1975=100); basic materials and fuels, wholesale prices of manufactured products (1975=100); retail prices and food prices (1974=100); FT commodity index (July 1982=100); trade weighted value of sterling (1975=100).

	Basic mfg.	Wholesale mfg.	RPI	Foodst.	FT comdty.	Strg.
1982						
2nd qtr.	222.7	248.0	238.2	221.5	223.46	90.3
3rd qtr.	221.3	245.9	246.8	223.0	225.88	91.4
4th qtr.	221.3	245.9	246.8	223.0	225.88	91.4
1983						
1st qtr.	222.7	248.0	238.2	221.5	223.46	90.3
January	222.4	247.9	237.9	221.2	223.46	89.7
February	227.0	251.0	241.2	227.3	227.29	89.7
March	227.0	251.0	241.2	227.3	227.29	89.7
April	227.0	251.0	241.2	227.3	227.29	89.7

\* Not seasonally adjusted.

Royal Insurance plc, Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.





## FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Thursday May 12th 1983

## Castings and Forgings

An alarming decline in these industries has begun to worry customers, who fear whole sectors could disappear in the U.K. This concern is being impressed on the Government

## Widening net of concern

BY IAN RODGER

IN THE PAST few months, concern about the plight of Britain's casting and forging industries has widened considerably.

It is no longer just the beleaguered producers themselves who bemoan their fate, but also their customers, the manufacturers of engines, machine tools, compressors, pumps and dozens of other engineered products.

Again and again, machinery makers say how worried they are that their traditional casting suppliers may not survive the current recession.

Alarm about the state of these important sectors has also reached the Government, which recently despatched Mr. John

Butcher, a junior Minister in the Industry Department, to spend a day and a half a week in the West Midlands, where the forges and foundries are concentrated.

But there is no mystery about the alarming decline of these fields. It is a direct consequence of the decline of their main customer industries, and in particular, the motor industry.

The motor industry consumes about a quarter of all aluminium and iron castings, about 45 per cent of all drop forgings and 7 per cent of steel castings.

And the sad statistics of Britain's motor industry are, by now, all too familiar. Car production has halved from 1.74m vehicles in 1971 to only 888,000 last year. Commercial vehicle output fell a third from a peak of 408,000 units in 1979 to 269,000 last year.

## Overvalued

British producers of castings and forgings have also suffered from the difficulties of their customers in remaining competitive in export markets during the period in which the pound was overvalued.

And although their products have a high weight-to-value ratio, imports have made disquieting inroads into the home market because of the strength of sterling.

Mr D. G. Higgs, a director of Brockhouse's foundry division, has noticed an even more disturbing trend, the import of fully-machined castings. He pointed out that there are always faulty castings in any batch and these are discovered when the casting is machined. Thus, it is safer for an importer to bring in fully-machined rather than raw castings, thus displacing another stage of manufacturing in the UK.

The forging and casting industries are also victim to changes in technology. A few years ago, for example, it was safe to say that the casting process was the quickest and usually cheapest way to make products out of metal. And that forging was the only way to make high-integrity parts that could be subjected to considerable stress.

Today, camshafts can be cast rather than forged because of advances in casting and alloying technologies. Similarly, the development of slag welding makes possible the building of very high-integrity steel fabrications that are as good as or better than large castings.

There are also shifts in the use of materials—from iron to aluminium in the case of engines, and from metal to plastic in many other applications.

The combined effect of all these trends is massive upheaval and decimation in sectors that have been at the heart of Britain's engineering industry. Ferrous foundry production has plummeted from 2.7m tonnes in 1979 to 1.5m tonnes last year, more than 300 foundries have been closed since the mid-1970s and most remaining companies are still operating at less than 75 per cent of capacity.

Drop forgings deliveries have fallen 45 per cent since 1979 and the press forging business has been similarly hard hit.

## Weight

Even the non-ferrous casting sectors have suffered. The casting and forging of light metals, especially aluminium, were expected to produce growth in the past few years as car and truck manufacturers attempted to reduce the weight of their vehicles. But the tonnage of aluminium cast in the UK has fallen from 170,000 tonnes in 1975 to 78,000 tonnes in 1981.

So far, there are no reports of the basic capacity to make a particular type of casting or forging having disappeared entirely as a result of this widespread decline, but this is what worries producers and consumers alike.

## BRITAIN'S TUMBLING FOUNDRY OUTPUT

	1975	1978	1982
Iron	3,002	2,489	1,474
Steel	269	198	146
Aluminium and alloys	170	165	78
Copper and alloys	67	67	38
Zinc and alloys	57	57	37.5

FT sources.

"The next closure might be the last diesel head foundry in the country," says Mr Terry Davies, assistant managing director of Birmid Qualcast, the largest independent producer of castings in Britain.

One major machinery manufacturer said recently that he was taking the precaution of developing overseas sources for strategic cast components, because so many UK producers were closing.

The situation in the iron foundry sector, which is by far the largest, is so serious that in February a group of the major producers formed a new association, the Association of Major Castings Manufacturers, to alert the Government and their customers.

The association is working on

a submission to Government but Mr Arthur Mould, a director of Birmid's foundry subsidiary, said they were not looking for handouts but for a policy for the motor and engineering industries.

As component makers, the casting and forging companies are poorly placed to affect demand for their products. All they can do to try to preserve their health is make sure their operations are at least internationally competitive, and thus help their customers remain competitive. They can try also to make sure that capacity does not get out of line with demand.

After the shortages of castings that occurred in the UK in the early 1970s, companies invested heavily in new capacity and modernisation. The Foundries Economic Development Committee of NEDO estimated that almost £250m was invested in ferrous and non-ferrous foundry projects between 1975 and 1980.

Much of this was in new capacity—some of which has subsequently been closed—but much of it was on modernisation and automation.

Midland Industries, for example, has spent more than £11m on new equipment in the past decade including six highly flexible automated casting machines and a computer-loaded melting shop. For its

pains, Midland is one of the few companies that has continued to make profits during the current recession, although at a much reduced rate.

On the forging side, the most important single investment in recent years was the £10m spent by Johnson and Firth Brown on the largest automated press forge in the world. But JFB's forging business has dropped drastically in the past two years, especially as orders from the aerospace business dried up, and the business was merged last year with that of the British Steel Corporation.

In all sectors, companies themselves have carried out massive rationalisation plans and many have got out of casting and forging completely.

## Inroads

Last month, Guest Keen and Nettlefolds announced the closure of the last of its iron foundries supplying the automotive industry, at Halesowen in the West Midlands, with the loss of 285 jobs. The foundry has lost £1.6m in the past two years.

Triplex Foundries spent £1.6m on closure costs, mainly in connection with shutting its malleable iron foundry at Tipton, in 1981, and another £3m on the closure of its Vowles aluminium and grey iron foundry last year. Birmid has cut its iron foundry capacity from 300,000 tonnes to 125,000 tonnes in the past three years.

But these and other efforts have not been enough. The heavy trading losses being suffered by most companies show that capacity is still far in excess of demand.

Significant further progress has been made in the steel casting sector by the negotiation of joint rationalisation schemes in the past year, as reported elsewhere in this survey.

Discussions have been held aimed at negotiating similar schemes in the iron foundry sector, but producers are sceptical that anything could be agreed. In the steel sector, they point out, there is a relatively small number of large producers whereas in iron there are many small ones.

Moreover, iron casting consumers like to double source, so there is no assurance that if one of their major UK suppliers agrees to close, the business would go to another UK supplier rather than a foreign one.

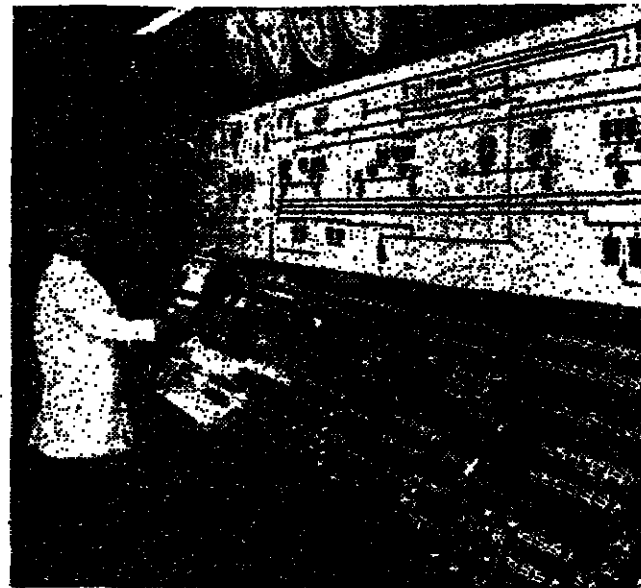
In forging, the huge rationalisation involving Johnson and Firth Brown and British Steel took care of the heavy sector, while in the drop forging business, it has been mainly a question of laying off staff and mothballing machines.

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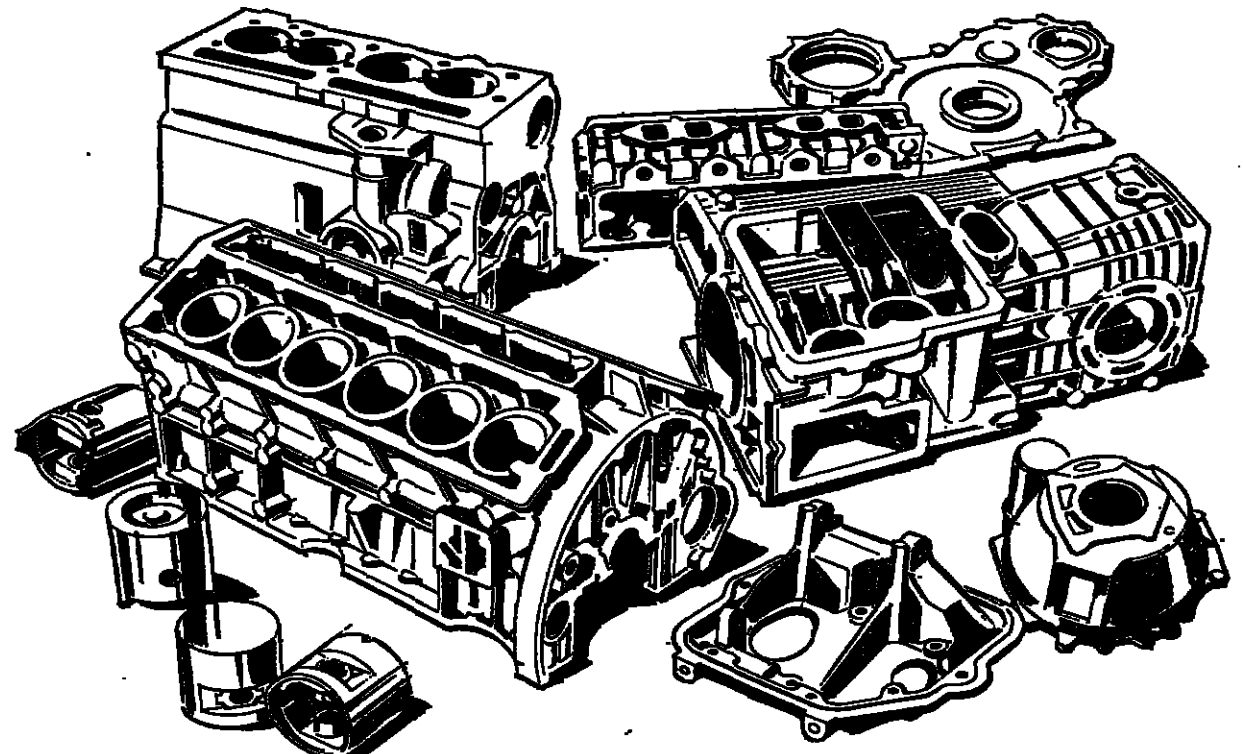


Left: a 24-ton nickel-aluminium-bronze casting for a submarine, marked out for radiography checks to make sure it has no faults. Right: automatic selection, mixing, weighing and delivery of moulding sands in a steel foundry.



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## CASTINGS AND FORGINGS II

Investment and improved technology have produced benefits but falling demand and competition from plastics have taken a heavy toll.

## Pressure on non-ferrous castings increases

THE NON-FERROUS castings and forgings industry once held out the prospect of high growth and high profits for enterprising companies with the right mix of skill and capital. But the recession has hit the markets it serves and the combination of high energy costs, low demand, and surplus capacity has now forced the sector into a major rationalisation programme.

The principal metals covered by the non-ferrous castings and forgings sector are zinc, copper and aluminium. Out of total production valued at \$465m in 1981, aluminium accounted for 45 per cent, copper 33 per cent, zinc 13 per cent and investment castings, which are mostly high-precision engineering products, 8 per cent.

Excluding investment castings, the industry's output of 173,000 tons in 1981 was made up of 49 per cent aluminium, 30 per cent copper and 21 per cent zinc.

But these non-ferrous metals have suffered a level of decline worse than that seen in industry generally and its hopes of expansion, with the switch to lighter weight metals, have been dashed by the shrinkage of its major markets.

Among them cars and aircraft have seen a fall in sales and unless production in these two main markets picks up, the castings industry will have to fight hard to retain its present level of output.

Sales among 100 leading companies in the non-ferrous foundry sector fell by 11.4 per cent in 1980-81 according to

ICC Business Ratios 1982 report on non-ferrous foundries. The report indicates that non-ferrous foundries were second only to the steel producers in their negative return on capital, which was down to -1.2 per cent in 1980-81 from 20.5 per cent in 1978/79.

Profit margins among the 100 companies were negative at -0.3 per cent in 1980-81 with some of the larger foundries coming under increasing pressure.

Birmid Qualeast's non-ferrous foundry subsidiary, Birmid Castings, with an annual turnover of £14m in 1981-82, has experienced low sales growth and poor returns and profits on its light metal founding operations.

## Profit

Consolidated Goldfields subsidiary, Alumasec, which produces a wide range of non-ferrous metals by deep-drawing, casting, and hot-pressing production methods, also experienced poor sales growth in 1981-82. However, its pre-tax operating profit of 8.2 per cent held up well on a turnover of £12m.

Another problem facing the non-ferrous industry is the recent shortage of aluminium scrap and ingot. UK producers of aluminium pressure die-castings in the transport and domestic appliance industries are suffering because of heavy Japanese and American purchases which have pushed up scrap prices.

In spite of such setbacks the industry now has the opportunity to improve productivity and efficiency by introducing new technology into the production process. Fully-automated production processes and robotics are already available if companies can raise the investment capital to install it.

However, because castings are intermediate components in the production of final goods they suffer when demand for all products falls.

Foundries owned by major car producers, like the BL foundry in West Yorkshire, are directly stimulated by an increase in car sales. The BL foundry reports an increase in sales over the last six to eight months with the present order book helped by the increased demand for Jaguar cars in the U.S.

The BL foundry, which employs 240 people in the production of aluminium castings for the BL car and truck divisions, has undertaken a highly successful investment programme aimed at improving product performance and reducing costs.

EL sees the introduction of automated die-casting machines as the main area ripe for automation but robots are at the heart of technological change.

This change in method of production has been matched by the development of new products particularly in the car industry.

The lightweight high speed diesel engine will open up markets for aluminium castings over the next few years and the move towards lighter weight components in all engines should boost demand for light-weight metals.

But new products and new methods of production are not helping the older foundries which are burdened with high overheads and obsolete equipment. New technology means lower cost and higher speed and companies have to either maintain their technology base or lose their markets.

One discernible change caused by the recession is the battle to win markets within the non-ferrous industry. Aluminium, zinc, copper and other alloys are, in some cases substitutable, and casters and forgers are competing to capture a rising percentage of a falling market.

Competition from plastics has also taken its toll. Zinc, for example, was once the principal metal for light stressed minor components used by car designers for embellishment and trim, but these components are now dominated by plastics.

Plastics have also taken over from zinc in the production of window winder handles, fuel pumps, steering columns, and certain electrical components. Foundry industry executives believe this transition will inevitably continue.

In the past five years about 12 zinc die-casting companies out of a total of about 115 have gone out of business as demand has fallen from a peak of 80,000 tons to about 40,000 tons last year. The decline in the car industry has played a major part in that fall.

For example, in 1975, auto-



Taking a zinc casting from the mould after pouring. Government support for the non-ferrous sector is helping to develop the technology and improve the quality of the finished product.

motive components accounted for 18,000 tons of zinc die-casters' output, a share of 32 per cent. By 1981 that had fallen to 10,000 tons and a share of 27 per cent.

New products are being developed which require zinc castings and forgings, particularly computer hardware and building material products such as replacement windows and patio doors.

## Mechanisation

But the new products are not being developed quickly enough to speed the fall in employment in the industry. There has been a continual loss of jobs over the past five years with the advent of mechanisation and the subsequent reduction in people needed to settle castings. Research is also being undertaken to reduce employment through chemical polishing techniques which replace hand finishing.

The Association of Bronze and Brass Founders indicates that the zinc sector has been a continuous decline in employment in recent years with the closure of small foundries and a concentration into large ones. Total production in the copper alloy sector has fallen from

72,000 tons in 1971 to 48,000 tons in 1981 and this has damaged employment prospects. However, despite the gloomy employment picture the copper alloy sector is holding its current production volume at a steady rate.

The B & F (British Non-Ferrous) Technology Centre, a research association for the industry, has been asked to look at ways of transferring technology to the foundry floor.

A technology transfer group has been set up, with support from the Department of Industry, to speed the development of technology. The scheme, which started last November, has a budget of £230,000 to be used over three years.

Government support for non-ferrous foundries has also surfaced in the zinc sector where the technology transfer programme has committed £1m. A new joint scheme about to be launched by the government and the zinc casting industry will make another £500,000 available for investment projects.

These schemes have helped to improve the quality of die castings and zinc die-casters are now in a good technical position to meet future orders.

A striking feature of schemes to help the industry, however, is that out of a total £20m made available by the Government since 1977, only £12m has been taken up. The various schemes offered to contribute 25 per cent of the investment cost of plant and machinery and 15 per cent of building costs, but even this incentive was not enough to persuade hard-pressed companies to embark on a major investment drive.

This has not stopped the industry from competing successfully in world markets, however. The National Economic Development Council believes the UK foundry industry has technical capabilities as good as any country in the world and this is borne out by the fact that few foreign companies have made inroads in the UK market for non-ferrous castings and forgings.

The copper alloy sector, for example, has not suffered from import penetration and apart from Italian imports of domestic taps nearly all castings and forgings are supplied by British companies.

In fact the more innovative foundries in the copper alloy sector are picking up business abroad, even in West Germany.

The Gulf states are also buying British products and the impression is that the industry is still internationally competitive despite the high value of sterling over the past few years.

However, imports of final products which already contain castings are affecting the market. The inflow of foreign cars, for example, has had a major impact on demand for castings. This problem is especially intractable because it is difficult to see what UK foundries can do about it.

Some companies are coping well with the recession, however, among them the small, independent company Stone-Fry Magnesium, which works in aluminium, magnesium and zinc alloys. Stone-Fry achieved a return on capital of 63 per cent in 1982 and hopes to take full advantage of a £1m contract it has just won to supply castings to Rank Xerox for its System 10 copiers.

The company has succeeded by ensuring that it is not dependent on the car industry, and it has never had more than 20 per cent of its business in that field. Its main interests lie in the computer, defence and aerospace industries which have not suffered such a decline.

Most of the more successful companies are small or medium size concerns concentrating on the jobbing end of the market with small production runs and specialised products.

The success of the new aluminium casting process developed by Cosworth Engineering, described on page IV, shows how effective a fresh approach can be.

The success of the smaller companies and the dismal record of some of the larger ones does, however, highlight a contradiction within the industry. New technology can be most effectively deployed for high-volume production runs, yet without a major increase in demand the market will have to operate with shorter runs.

The non-ferrous forgings industry, which accounts for only 0.9 per cent (2,200 tons) of total forgings output in volume terms and 10 to 12 per cent in value terms, has not suffered as badly as the non-ferrous castings industry. This is mainly due to its more diversified customer base which covers home improvements, the construction industry, the water and gas industries and the general engineering sector as well as parts of the motor industry.

## Hope

New product areas for non-ferrous castings and forgings are opening up but the best hope of market expansion is still in the automotive sector where there has been a move towards lighter components which reduce weight and generate fuel efficiency. Unless demand for cars and commercial vehicles rises, this move will not have as much impact as the foundry industry is anticipating.

There is particular concern by the NEDC about the move into plastics and it points out that demand for zinc castings and forgings has fallen not because there is anything wrong with the product but because plastics are now more suitable.

Even with the aid of structural changes which have increased the use of aluminium in the automotive sector, employment opportunities have fallen dramatically. The Light Metal Founders Association estimates that numbers employed in the aluminium castings and forgings industry have fallen from 28,000 in 1980-81 to approximately 21,000 in 1982-83.

Ken Ferris

The performance of the sector's main customer industries has had severe repercussions.

## Steel castings deliveries decline

## DECLINE OF FERROUS FOUNDRIES IN UK

	Foundries closed	Jobs lost
1979	54	6,688
1980	47	11,523
1981	51	7,594
1982	46	6,524

Source: Reply by Mr John Butcher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry to Commons written question.

been involved in any discussions.

There are only two UK producers of cast steel rolls, which are used in metal rolling mills. Davy and Sheffield Forgemasters confirmed last January that they were discussing a possible rationalisation and merger plan. Sheffield Forgemasters made 95 of the 370 workforces at its Midland Rollmakers subsidiary redundant early this year.

One of the dangers of rationalisation on the scale experienced in the British steelcasting industry in the past year or two

is that the ability to make certain types of castings is likely to disappear altogether.

So far, there is no evidence that this has happened, but the country now has only one foundry capable of making very large steel castings and only one foundry capable of making very large spun castings.

Still, the industry was losing an estimated average 4 per cent on sales last year and so companies have little choice but to contract.

Ian Rodger

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THE TYPICAL component made from cast iron is an engine block. The typical product made from cast steel is a valve. The tonnage of steel in the financial results of some of the leading companies in the sector. For example, F. H. Lloyd, the largest producer, saw its pre-tax profits fall from £5.2m in the year to March, 1978 to £3.4m in 1979, £2.4m in 1980 and then plunge into a loss of £254,000 in 1980-81.

Steel castings are used for the finest seat rings and for huge turbine casings, rolling mill housings and excavating machines. The quality of metal used varies from ordinary carbon steel to the most sophisticated alloys, cast in static moulds or spun into cylindrical shapes.

Despite this great versatility, the steel foundry sector has not been immune from the huge decline in demand that has hit the industry as a whole in the past few years.

The figures are numbing. Deliveries declined from 250,000 tonnes in 1976 to 148,000 tonnes last year. The number of foundries has dropped from 88 in 1976 to about 50 today, and employment has halved from 21,000 in 1976 to about 10,600 today.

## Valves

The reasons for the decline can be seen in the performance of the sector's main customer industries. The largest single use for steel castings, accounting for about 12 per cent of the tonnage produced, is in valves. Valves have a wide range of industrial applications, but primarily in process and power plant where construction activity is very depressed.

The other major uses for steel castings are construction and earth moving equipment and crushing, grinding and quarrying machinery. Both the mining and construction indus-

tries have been operating at very low levels in the past few years.

The effect of this decline in the market can be seen clearly in the financial results of some of the leading companies in the sector. For example, F. H. Lloyd, the largest producer, saw its pre-tax profits fall from

£5.2m in the year to March, 1978 to £3.4m in 1979, £2.4m in 1980 and then plunge into a loss of £254,000 in 1980-81.

Weir Group, another large producer, plunged from a profit of £8.6m in 1977 to an £8.25m loss in 1980. Early in 1981, the company needed major financial restructuring to ensure its survival.

By 1981, total production of about 150,000 tonnes was far below the sector's total capacity of 250,000 tonnes and no one was making any money.

The industry's trade and research association, SCRAFA, suggested in mid-1981 that the companies involved should come together and agree on a rationalisation scheme to remove much of the excess capacity. The idea was that those who continued in the business would compensate those that agreed to close, on the assumption that trading conditions would improve for those that remained.

SCRAFA failed in its attempt to mount an industry-wide scheme, when Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, was invited to try and organise something. It divided the industry into two and subsequently five sub-sectors, and has already completed schemes in three of them, resulting in the closure of 30 foundries, representing perhaps 25 per cent of the industry's capacity.



Selection of steel castings produced by a Sheffield foundry. One of the dangers of too extensive rationalisation is that some of the industry's expertise could disappear.

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## CASTINGS AND FORGINGS III

# Many companies are working at an unprofitable 50 to 60 per cent of capacity

## Ferrous foundries: going hard to win new markets

NOWHERE IS THE rapid decline of the UK manufacturing base more apparent than in the ferrous foundry sector. In just eight years output has more than halved to less than 1.5m tonnes, more than 50,000 jobs have gone to shrink the workforce to only 50,000, more than 200 foundries have shut and companies have gone out of business at a rapid rate.

But still the downward slide continues. The sector with many companies working at an unprofitable 50 to 60 per cent of capacity has sounded the alarm that further cuts will be necessary.

Markets, after a traumatic slump, have at best bottomed out and few companies see much sign of improvement. Too much capacity is still chasing too few orders with cut-price imports squeezing margins and jeopardising future investment. Companies gaining orders do so at the expense of competitors, often picking up the business after a foundry closure.

The problem of weak demand was the dominant response in a survey just completed by the economic development unit of the West Midlands County Council.

The local authority is anxious to devise a survival strategy for what is the region's second biggest industry. The West Midlands accounts for nearly one in three foundries in the UK and four out of 10 foundry workers.

### Questionnaire

"Lack of demand was what company after company told us. They even printed it in capitals on the questionnaire to stress the point," says Mr Colin Appleby, principal economist in the development unit.

"Companies have reacted aggressively to recession. They have gone for new markets, expanded their sales teams and found new customers." But Mr Appleby reports that falling schedules remain the problem. "Typical is one company that told us it has increased the number of customers by three times but still faces reduced volumes."

Ferrous castings are basic to much of Britain's once strong engineering industry. The foundries, as their customers have taken a hammering in world markets, have been left stranded and in the red.

The decline is illustrated most vividly by the motor industry which used to take about a third of the output of iron castings.

Car production has been slashed by more than half in little more than 10 years to only 888,000 vehicles last year—and a proportion of that output represented imported kits with heavy foreign content.

Commercial vehicle manufacture showed a slight improvement last year to reach 269,000 but was still down dramatically from the 408,000 of 1979.

The UK tractor industry has also declined from a peak output of about 229,000 units to about 94,000—a big drop even when the fact that today's vehicles may be more sophisticated is taken into account.

**Imports**

The automotive sector also points out how the upsurge in the import of finished manufactured products has snatched markets away from the dependent component suppliers.

Car assembly in the UK has been ravaged by imports—either directly by, for example, the Japanese, or indirectly by multi-nationals such as Ford and General Motors operating in this country. By contrast car output has climbed in West Germany, France and Italy with Spain emerging as an important rival.

Such factors help explain why production of ferrous castings in the UK has been in decline over the past two decades, while volume in France and West Germany has been sustained. In Japan output has more than doubled to 5.9m tonnes.

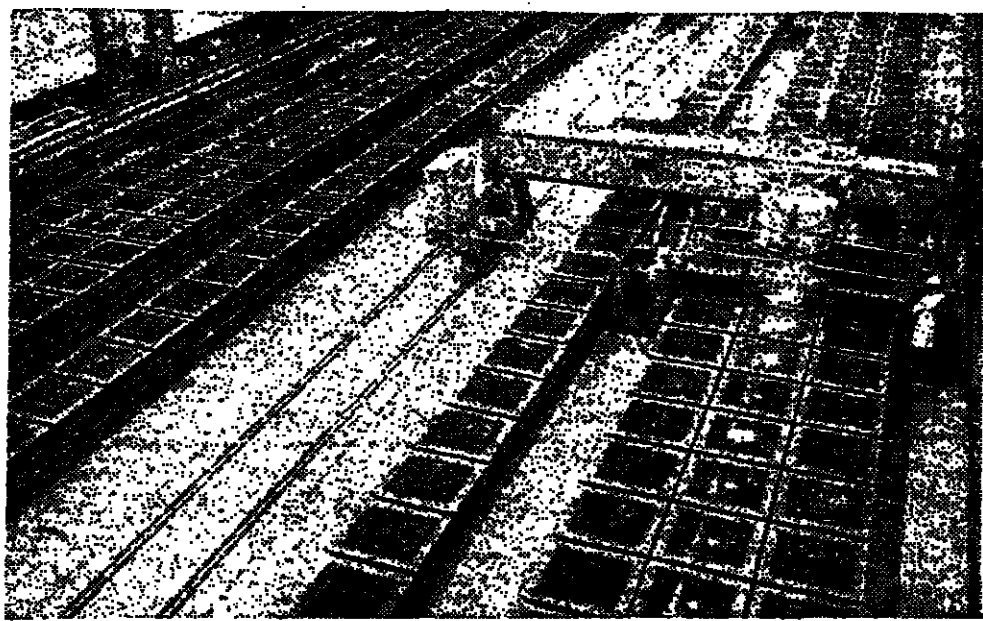
The mounting frustration of companies within the foundry sector at the seemingly inexorable decline of their industry has prompted the formation of a new pressure group, the Association of Major Castings Manufacturers.

The group is calling for urgent government action and warns that "on present trends the highly competent foundry industry—vital for Britain to retain its engineering base—could be swept away."

### MAJOR CUSTOMERS FOR IRON CASTINGS

	1975	1979	1980	1981	1982
Automotive	350	307	288	282	293
Large moulds	366	300	129	215	177
Pressure pipes and fittings	308	278	168	182	218
Buildings and domestic	328	302	254	289	226
Engineering	545	481	367	367	225
Other	495	409	343	288	235
Total	3,002	2,677	1,847	1,843	1,474

Source: Council of Ironfoundry Associations.



Part of the pouring line in a Leeds steel foundry. The standard moulding boxes are moved through the plant, from mould preparation to final shake-out, by an automated conveyor.

The association, which claims to represent 85 per cent of the independent castings suppliers to the automotive industry, includes Birmid Qualcast, Midland Industries, Castings, Triplex, Brockhouse and Butler Foundries.

The move by the leading companies in an industry as diverse as castings to join forces is likely to create a powerful lobby to persuade the Government to play a more interventionist role. The complaint is that the Government should develop a long-term strategy rather than stand back and allow a vital part of the engineering industry to slide away.

The immediate call is to be allowed to compete on equal terms with foreign companies. The foundries have met with success in breaking into new overseas markets and expanding exports—a difficult task where technological advantage has to be ensured in order to offset the high transport costs

of bulky components. The industry argues that it is difficult to compete on price and profitability in world markets awash with excess production.

The association maintains that even within the European Community competitors "enjoy the benefit of more stable demand, less demanding environmental requirements and in certain countries direct or indirect government support."

Attention has focussed in particular upon Spain, already the equal of the UK as a car assembler, where import duties range from 33 to 38 per cent. By contrast, the association says, Spanish castings face duty of only about 4 per cent on entering the UK.

The association, which is seeking a personal meeting with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, is likely to stress that after three years of shutdowns and sackings the capacity now at risk is "strategic"—British industry will become increasingly dependent on overseas suppliers for key components.

Mr Terry Davies, chairman of Birmid Qualcast Foundries, one of the biggest iron castings operations in Europe, has cut his labour force from 12,000 to 4,000 in just five years.

He insists: "The country cannot turn its back on its major engineering strengths. The industry has invested in the face of falling markets. We are the equal in terms of productivity and technical expertise of the best of the international competition."

The need from government is

for a commitment to retaining the industry and the creation of a framework within which the UK companies can compete. The containment of costs in the public sector, whether for energy, raw materials or local authority rates is seen as an important factor.

Action by the previous Labour government to offer incentives to stimulate new investment, in order to avoid capacity restrictions in any upturn, backfired. Though special foundry aid schemes prompted some £300m of spending the new capacity was coming on stream three years ago as recession began to bite.

Companies found themselves burdened with high debt charges at a time of falling demand, fierce price competition, and rising costs.

The very companies that have invested to keep ahead in the technology race find themselves at a greater disadvantage—they need volume to spread costs but business is being snatched by cheap imports and often by the pricing policy of those foundries which did not invest.

Mr Davies sums up: "We have to get across to the government the urgency of the problem. The time for cuts has gone. Enough jobs have gone. We now need a strategy which will build upon the strengths of the industry and ensure prosperous employment for the thousands of workers who remain."

Arthur Smith

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Rationalisation efforts try to match fall in demand

## Forging: relying on car sales

AT THE centre of the British engineering industry the forging sector has been suffering badly for years. Despite all efforts to cut itself down to size in a reduced market, very few companies can claim to be making a respectable return. Indeed more than half of them are probably trading in the red.

Statistics compiled by the National Association of Drop Forgers and Stampers paint a gloomy picture. Last year production fell by 8.8 per cent to just over 253,000 tonnes, less than half the amount the industry was producing a decade ago. Apart from a small upturn in 1979 production has been heading steadily downwards ever since 1973. In part these statistics give a worse impression than the underlying reality—as production techniques become more sophisticated tonnage figures would shrink anyway. Nevertheless the curve on the graph is plain to see.

In response to the continuing fall in demand the industry has undergone wholesale rationalisation. In the drop forging sector employment has fallen by 10,000 to 14,000 since 1979. A vast amount of equipment is in mothballs, perhaps some of it never to be used again, and Mr David Powis, a director of the drop forgers' Association estimates the industry is working to about 60 per cent of capacity. The drop forging industry is disproportionately represented

by fairly small companies and Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds dominates the sector. Companies under its wing account for more than half UK output. And, in turn, the drop forgers as a whole are dominated by the fortunes of the motor industry. According to the Association's figures last year 20 per cent of its output went to the car manufacturers, 25 per cent to commercial vehicles and 12 per cent to the tractor builders. In all just under two-thirds of output went to "mobile" end products which takes in earth moving equipment etc.

### Upturn

To this extent the forgers should soon be feeling the first whiffs of an upturn. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is talking of UK car sales this year returning to the peak of 1.7m last recorded in 1979. Within that Mr Bill Seward of stockbrokers Phillips and Drew expects the number of British made cars to rise from the 887,000 of last year to around 980,000. The first quarter output figure of 266,000 against 257,000 for the first quarter of 1982 (incidentally the best quarter of the year) certainly underlines his prediction.

The optimism for UK production is based on BL's launch of the Maestro, Ford's resolution to build more in the UK this year and the steady progress of Talbot and Vauxhall.

The only major uncertainty—strikes apart—is BL's threat to source more of its component parts outside Britain which ultimately could be bad news for hard pressed drop forgers.

Certainly BL, in an effort to contain its own cost structure, is trying to turn the screws on its suppliers and it could get some parts cheaper overseas, especially while those overseas manufacturers are suffering from excess capacity and willing to undertake low margin production. However, while some of BL's component business could drift away to non-UK suppliers the political implications of BL flattening the British component industry to boost its own profitability may make widespread desertion to overseas sourcing unlikely.

Truck output too was looking more encouraging, at least until recently. Output halved from 1979 to 1981 and the small improvement last year was expected to follow through to further gains in the current 12 months. However, the 1983 first quarter production figures showed a 5.4 per cent setback against the corresponding three months while registrations were up 21 per cent. The problem is tough conditions in export markets and it does throw a shadow over earlier optimistic estimates.

While reliable statistics for forging product imports are unavailable the drop forgers recognise the problem of sales from low cost countries such as Spain and the Far East. However, British industry exports some 14 per cent of its production, mainly to the U.S., Europe and Scandinavia. As far as David Powis can estimate imports account for no more than a similar percentage of the home market. Anyway striving for greater inroads in export markets offers little real potential. Of greater importance is the search for new techniques to improve precision forging methods to open up physical rather than geographic markets.

For the moment at least the drop forgers are feeling "cautiously optimistic" having passed what they saw to be the real "rock bottom" late last

year. Yet there have been false dawns before and optimism is not a word that Mr David Clarke, managing director of Sheffield Forgemasters, would use with much confidence.

Sheffield Forgemasters has 4 to 5 per cent of the drop forge market in tonnage terms, and rather more judged by value, but it is the field of press forging where the company dominates the British market.

### Link

Sheffield Forgemasters is an amalgamation of the big press forging businesses of Johnson & Firth Brown and British Steel Corporation. Such a link had been contemplated years before but it took the recession to bring the industry to its knees before the two agreed to marry.

Added impetus to a deal was given with the expiry last May of a 10-year agreement between the two whereby Firth Brown took on business from ingots of 75 tonnes and less and BSC's River Don Works undertook all the large forgings. The prospects of wider competition once that agreement ended would have hardly been welcome in the two board rooms as both companies were losing money.

The two operations had been rationalising their operations for some time. Firth Brown had cut its workforce from 4,500 to 3,000 at the time of the merger. Nevertheless, further cuts have been, and will be, made to make the new company "a streamlined efficient organisation," as the announcement of the amalgamation proclaimed. Last August the two companies were forecasting that at least another 1,100 jobs would have to go.

Even though further rationalisation has taken out more presses, Sheffield Forgemasters still has "significant spare capacity," according to Mr Clarke. Given the parlous state of the heavy forging sector no wonder he feels less than enthusiastic. "We are the only people making large-casting and large forgings, so I must be worried about the state of engineering in the UK," he adds.

Terry Garrett

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



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Financial Times

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**Dr. S. Hill**  
**and**  
**Dr. G. G. Hill**



[illegible]**ET INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE**

The list shows the 200 latest international bond issues for which an adequate secondary market exists. For further details of these or other bonds see the complete list of Eurobond prices which is published monthly. The following are closing prices for May 11.

[illegible]

## May 1983



SECTION III - INTERNATIONAL MARKETS  
**FINANCIAL TIMES**

Thursday May 12 1983

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## WALL STREET

Hopes for  
lower rates  
renewed

CREDIT markets on Wall Street were inhibited yesterday by routine delays in Congress for the raising of the limit on Treasury debt, now close to its ceiling. But with the Federal Reserve board's market operations on Tuesday now ascribed to purely technical factors, confidence in a downward trend in rates was renewed, writes Terry Byland in New York.

Shares markets tried to go forward at first but profit-taking in leading stocks spread and small losses became widespread. Oil shares attracted buyers again but early gains were reduced before the close.

At the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 9.96 at 1219.72. There were declines in around 1,000 issues compared with 600 advances but volume narrowed to some 98m shares from the 104.01 of Tuesday.

Once again, though, a heavy list of block trades indicated a strong underlying support from the major investment institutions. Large share trades were recorded in oil stocks, with Mobil and Phillips Petroleum prominent, and also among retailers, where K-mart, Allied Stores and Wal Mart found buyers.

A spurt of buying of oil shares followed a recommendation for the sector from Salomon Brothers, the major brokerage and banking firm. But buying was not followed through.

Among the oil majors to see early rises cut back were Exxon, \$4 up at \$35, Standard Indiana, \$1 up at \$46, Atlantic Richfield, \$1 up at \$48 and Standard Oil of California \$4 up at \$46.

There was renewed selling of shares in Data General, which dipped by \$2 to \$56 after a further statement from the board on the trading outlook.

Chrysler lost a further \$1 to \$25 as the market pondered the question of the U.S. Government's rights to buy stock cheaply. Motor issues suffered a bout of profit-taking which took General Motors down by \$5 to \$68 and Ford down by \$4 to \$50.

Shares in American Motors, which have been strong since the news of the deal to sell Jeeps to China, shed \$4 to \$10.

Eastern Airlines gave up \$4 to \$38 on reports that the group's pilots would take an equity stake, while Pan American, at \$6, put on \$4 in brisk trading following the board's confirmation of much-improved trading in the current year.

High on the list of the day's corporate news was the disclosure of a fall in earnings at IIT, whose shares dipped \$5 to \$40. Anderton Clayton, the food processor and insurance group, were \$4 off at \$31 on the announcement of lower earnings and similar factors left Sun Chemical a shade off at \$28.

Credit markets showed little change from overnight levels at mid-session. In addition to the traditional Wednesday

make-up day factors, the markets faced a sharp reduction in next Monday's auction of Treasury bills to \$7.4bn. The Fed's support for the market on Tuesday, in the form of its agreement to buy coupon issues, was followed up yesterday by a \$400m customer repurchase.

Treasury bill yields gained 3 points or so at first but the general lack of retail support saw yields closing up to the levels of the previous day before the end of the session.

Hopes of a fresh cut in the discount rate remain high. Yesterday the key Federal funds rate was trading at 8 1/4 to 8 1/2 per cent.

In Toronto, shares built on Tuesday's record close in early trading as investors welcomed the new Quebec and Ontario budgets, which are seen as favourable to business, but later fell back.

In Montreal, stocks were also sharply ahead at first, but they too mirrored Toronto's late decline.

## FAR EAST

Some losses  
recouped  
in Tokyo

SHARES recouped some of Tuesday's losses in Tokyo as a revival of selective buying allowed prices to close firmer. The Nikkei Dow industrial average gained 23.59 to close at 8,891 on volume of 410m shares, though the Tokyo SE index was marginally down by 0.38 to 634.07.

The market was depressed in the morning session after reports that Sanyo was estimating a 23 per cent drop in unconsolidated current profit to about ¥18bn from a year earlier, for the first half of its 1983 fiscal year, which began on November 1.

Sanyo later confirmed the report but added that it expects an increase in its consolidated current profit for the same period. However, Sanyo fell ¥25 to end at ¥465 and led other electricals and blue chips down.

Late in the day, investors turned their attention to speculative issues and this took the market up. One active speculative, Sanko Steamship, climbed ¥36 to ¥238 on expectations that an autumn election would be called, which would bring investments of political funds into the market.

Government bond prices ended unchanged from their previous close. The 7.7 per cent issue was quoted to yield 7.81 per cent and the 7.5 per cent issue was quoted to yield 7.82 per cent. The yield of the long-term 6 per cent issue also unchanged from its Tuesday close was quoted at 7.59 per cent.

In Hong Kong, shares regained some of the ground lost early in the day to finish mixed in light dealings. The Hang Seng index fell more than 7 points in the first hour but later recouped some of the decline to end down 2.30 on the day at 943.02.

The late upturn was largely the result of short covering, combined with a slight decline in selling pressure after the recent bear market.

In Singapore, shares ended narrowly mixed on profit-taking after a steadier opening. The Straits Times industrial index rose 2.10 to 859.42.

Banking shares were mostly actively traded, while commodities were lower and property issues were lower or steady.

In Taipei, shares declined for the third consecutive day and the weighted stock index, declined 16.27 to 854.39. However, turnover has been well below the levels seen last month.

The decline is attributed to profit-taking, coupled with the tightening of margin lending by banks.

## AUSTRALIA

## Sharp rises

SHARES moved sharply ahead for the second consecutive day in heavy trading in Sydney and Melbourne. At the close, the All Ordinaries index was up 10.1 at 817.8 - its highest level for 20 months - while the All Industrials and All Resources indices were each up 10 at 766.1 and 498.2 respectively.

Turnover was boosted by heavy off-market trading and overseas demand, particularly from Asian and UK investors.

The bullish tone is being attributed to the firm mood on Wall Street, solid gains in world gold and base metal prices, and to an easier trend in domestic interest rates.

## SOUTH AFRICA

## Very firm

STOCKS ended very firm in active trading in Johannesburg, led by gold shares which were responding to the continued strength of the bullion price. Among the heavyweights, Vaal Reefs added R8.50 to R136.50 while among the cheaper priced producers, Unisel added R1.25 to R18.50.

In platinum, Rustenburg was 60 cents higher at R10.30 reflecting the widening premium of the metal's free market price over spot gold.

## LONDON

Corrective  
slide leaves  
buyers wary

INVESTORS were extremely wary in London yesterday after Tuesday's slump in share values. Dealers also reflected, some painfully, on the first real demonstration of a corrective movement in this year's equity market boom.

The outcome was a rather slow and cautious session while the market convalesced.

Leading shares were a shade better initially, but small professional demand, encouraged by Wall Street's overnight firmness, was soon satisfied.

Later, dealers encountered equally modest sales which suggested that smaller investors were still opting to take profits now, rather than face the emotions unleashed in an election campaign.

Predictions of cheaper money at home and in the U.S. within the next month or so failed to have any effect and top-quality industrialists spent the remainder of the day drifting slightly easier.

The FT Industrial Ordinary share index closed 4.1 down at 672.6 - the session's lowest level and a four-day fall of 22.4. The broader-based FT-Actuaries all-share index fell for the ninth consecutive day to close 0.4 per cent lower at 419.34.

Trading announcements enlivened an overall drab equity scene. Among big-name groups to report, Trafalgar House moved higher on a satisfactory interim statement, but Royal Insurance went sharply lower following disappointing first-quarter figures.

The possibility of base lending rate cuts, together with sterling's stability, attracted support for Government securities. Recently - depressed longs rallied 1/2 in places, despite some apprehension over the latest central government borrowing requirement. Shorter maturities were firmer, but rarely more than 1/4.

A buoyant South African mining sector saw heavy and widespread buying of platinum following the free market platinum price's increased premium over the bullion price.

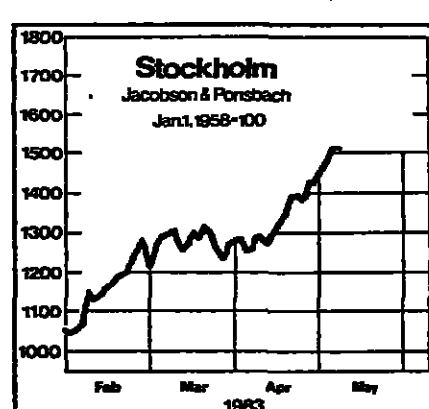
Gold turned in another creditable performance given the lack of progress by the metal price which closed only 25 cents firmer at \$443.75 an ounce.

Initial selling from Johannesburg was easily absorbed by London and European buying - later followed by good demand from New York. The share market responded with renewed gains.

Financials provided features in Gold Fields and RIZ, up around 23p apiece at 58p and 57p respectively, following a bear squeeze and the latest surge in copper prices.

Australians were again highlighted by persistent and heavy demand for the leading diversified mining companies.

Share information service, Pages 42-43.



## EUROPE

Frankfurt  
rises from  
recent lows

ACTIVITY was wound down yesterday in many of the European bourses ahead of the Ascension Day holiday today.

In Frankfurt, prices came back from recent lows to close mixed in this trade. Some pressure came off the market with the end of trading in a rights issue for Siemens. However, the outlook for U.S. interest rates kept investors uncertain and some profit-taking was evident ahead of the holiday.

The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, fell 3.7 to 931.7 - a loss of 12.1 since Monday.

In electricals, AEG lost 40 pf to DM 78.60, despite its projection of a much reduced loss for this year. Siemens gained DM 1.80 to DM 341 and Brown Boveri added 40 pf to DM 202.70 after announcing that it had been commissioned to carry out a feasibility study on a second generation thorium high temperature reactor.

Chemicals were mixed, with BASF 60 pf lower at DM 144.90 and Bayer 10 pf easier at DM 138.10. Hoechst ended 30 pf higher but pharmaceuticals group Schering shed DM 1.50 to DM 350.

Domestic bonds ended little changed after a listless, quiet session.

In Paris shares ended slightly higher in slow trading, with advances outnumbering declines by 94 to 71. The gains were credited to Wall Street's current firmness. The news that France was seeking a loan from the European Community had little impact on trading.

Dutch stocks closed mixed in active trading in Amsterdam amid strong overseas demand for shares in the chemicals and fibres group, Akzo.

Akzo ended 70 cents ahead at Ft 64 following the doubling of its first-quarter earnings and the market's positive response to its rights issue with warrants.

In the bond market, prices were slightly lower on yield adjustments following the new government issue at 8.25 per cent, though brokers said the issue was attracting good interest.

In Brussels, domestic and foreign shares were higher in lively trading with the Belgian shares index at 122.59, against 122.01, and the All-Shares index at 308.31, against the previous 306.20.

However, Banque Bruxelles Lambert shares were little changed following an announcement that the balance sheet total rose 3.7 per cent to end-March.

No sector was able to establish any clear trend in Zurich and shares closed lightly mixed. Among foreign issues, U.S. stocks were generally slightly below New York levels, although aluminium shares were strong.

Swiss domestic bonds were barely steady in the face of continuing high new issuing activity.

Prices of leading shares were steady to higher in Stockholm in moderate to heavy trading.

In Madrid, shares firmed in quiet trading, but in Milan, prices were mixed, in moderately active trading.

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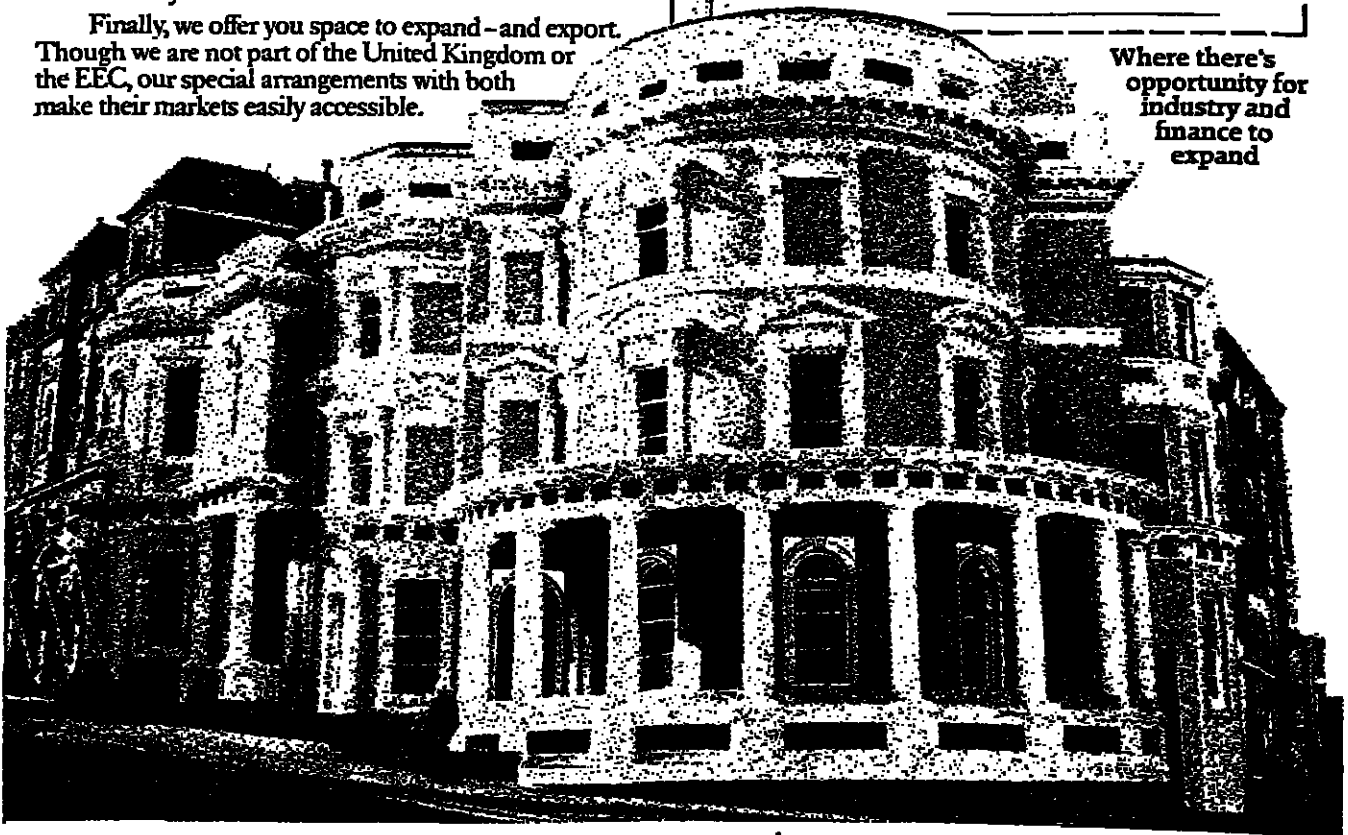


## Isle of Man

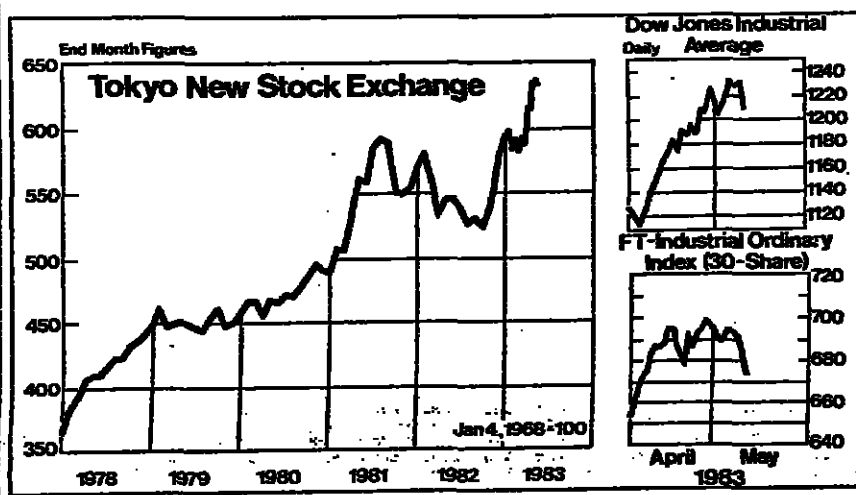
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opportunity for  
industry and  
finance to  
expand



## KEY MARKET MONITORS



STOCK MARKET INDICES			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
NEW YORK			
DJ Industrials	1219.72	1229.68	865.87
DJ Transport	547.55	550.75	352.84
DJ Utilities	128.55	129.06	116.91
S&P Composite	164.96	165.96	119.42

LONDON			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
FT Ind Ord	672.6	676.7	590.9
FT-A All-share	419.34	420.80	338.26
FT-A 500	454.07	456.53	368.77
FT-A Ind	419.49	421.81	334.73
FT Gold mines	680.5	677.0	229.8
FT Govt sec	81.15	80.98	69.41

TOKYO			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Nikkei Dow	8891.58	8867.99	7638.12
Tokyo SE	634.07	634.45	557.56

AUSTRALIA			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
All Ord.	617.8	607.4	518.4
Metals & Mins.	557.2	547.0	386.3

AUSTRIA			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Credit Aktien	58.66	58.62	52.46

BELGIUM			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Belgian SE	122.59	122.01	93.96

CANADA			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Toronto Composite	2451.72	2457.7	1592.5
Montreal Industrials	419.31	419.34	292.98
Combined	405.69	407.05	274.51

DENMARK			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Copenhagen SE	144.3	144.07	93.72

FRANCE			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
CAC Gen	125.3	124.8	111.0
Ind. Tendance	129.9	128.9	129.5

WEST GERMANY			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
FAZ-Aktien	311.19	312.17	230.83
Commerzbank	931.7	935.4	705.7

HONG KONG			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Hang Seng	943.02	945.32	1381.26

ITALY			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Banca Comm.	191.19	189.5	185.5

NETHERLANDS			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
ANP-CBS Gen	127.7	127.1	94.2
ANP-CBS Ind	106.2	105.7	74.2

NORWAY			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Oslø SE	191.06	189.61	109.15

SINGAPORE			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Straits Times	958.42	957.22	777.2

SOUTH AFRICA			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Gold	975.0	951.8	410.8
Industrials	929.3	918.7	594.8

SPAIN			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Madrid SE	116.0	115.88	123.54

SWEDEN			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
J & P	1506.77	1507.19	583.73

SWITZERLAND			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Swiss Bank Corp	327.7	328.5	258.4

WORLD			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
Capital Int'l	179.1	179.5	140.0

GOLD (per ounce)			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
London	\$443.75	\$443.50	\$443.50
Frankfurt	\$442.50	\$443.75	\$443.50
Zurich	\$443.50	\$443.50	\$443.50
Paris (fixing)	\$442.51	\$443.25	\$443.25
New York (May)	\$443.90*	\$443.20	\$443.20

\* indicates latest pre-close figure

## CURRENCIES

U.S. DOLLAR			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
£	1.5885	1.5680	-
DM	2.4390	2.4440	3.8275
Yen	231.20	232.60	363
FF	7.34	7.3550	11.51
Sfr	2.0325	2.0425	3.19
Scd	2.7470	2.7490	4.3050
Lira	1453.25	1454.5	2279
BP	48.66	48.90	76.35
CS	1.22525	1.22775	1.9225

## INTEREST RATES

Euro-currency			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
(three month offered rate)			
£	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%
Sfr	4%	4%	4%
DM	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
FF	13%	13%	13%

## FT London Interbank fixing

(offered rate)			
	May 11	Previous	Year ago
3-month U.S.\$	8 1/4%	8 1/4%	8 1/4%
6-month U.S.\$	8 1/4%	8 1/4%	8 1/4%
U.S. 3-month CDs	8.30	8.30	8 1/4%
U.S. 3-month T-bills	7.55	7.55	8%

## U.S. Treasury Bonds

	May 11	Previous	Year ago
9 1/2% 1985	100 1/2%	9.19	100 1/2%
10% 1990	100 1/2%	10.08	102 1/2%
10 1/2% 1993	99 1/2%	10.17	99 1/2%
10 3/4% 2012	100 1/2%	10.31	100 1/2%

## FINANCIAL FUTURES

CHICAGO				
	Latest	High	Low	Previous
U.S. Treasury Bonds (CBT)				
8% 32nds of 100%				



## NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

[illegible]



## AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

[illegible]

## NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

[illegible][illegible]







## COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

## Irish determined to maintain butter sales

BY BRENDAN KEENAN IN DUBLIN

THE IRISH Dairy Board, which has seen British sales of Kerrygold butter fall by more than half since 1975, is determined to maintain a market presence though it loses money on each packet sold.

A recent board meeting decided to try to hold its 7 per cent share of the UK market. It plans to hope of a return to profitable trading on EEC action to counter what the Irish claim are UK subsidies to British producers.

The Irish issued their first "reasoned opinion" from the EEC Commission that the operations of the UK Milk Marketing Board appeared to breach Community rules.

The board act as monopoly buyers of milk from British farmers but are accused of cross-subsidies between liquid milk and dairy products.

The Irish have taken the lead but claim to have the support of other producers such as Denmark and Holland, and even their traditional rivals, New Zealand.

The arguments have been sharpened by the severe fall in

British butter consumption. Sales have dropped by 40 per cent since 1975, when the Irish had more than 90 per cent of the market, representing about 40,000 tonnes compared with the 12,000 tonnes they expect to sell this year.

Dairy farmers, like most agricultural interests in Ireland would like to see further weakening of the Irish punt. Mr Brian Joyce, the dairy board's managing director, says even a move to the bottom of the European Monetary System band could mean an extra 1500m in butter exports.

Irish sources discount any significant consumer resistance to Irish butter because of political difficulties. They admit that some contracts were lost during the Falklands dispute when Ireland opposed continued EEC sanctions against Argentina—but claim that the amounts were not significant and the effects were short-lived.

"We are quite happy to compete with all comers in the UK market if the competition is there," the board says.

## Silver view 'over-optimistic'

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

AN OVER-OPTIMISTIC view of the future trend in silver prices is being taken by many mining companies, says a report by the Commodities Research Unit. It says many companies seem to be basing their calculations on long-term silver prices in the region of \$10-\$15 an ounce, but believes that the price of silver, in constant money terms, will be substantially below this range during the next five years.

The study—Silver—the next five years—claims that in the final analysis silver prices react to the level of above-ground stocks. It adds that stocks in private hands have reached, and are likely to remain at, the highest level than at any time in modern history.

On the London Metal Exchange the cash price for high-grade copper closed at a 38-month peak of \$1,151.5 a tonne, \$13.5 up in spite of being hit by profit-taking sales throughout the day. Reports of further buying of copper, plus aluminium, with the cash price gaining \$15.5 to \$227.5 a tonne.

Guerrillas firebombed a coffee processing plant in eastern El Salvador, causing about \$2m damage, police said. Machinery at the plant at Chicomera was reduced to twisted metal.

## NZ mutton sale to Soviets

By Dai Hayward in Wellington

ABOUT A quarter of New Zealand's mutton production this season will go to the Soviet Union, as part of a two-stage sale of 25,000 tonnes.

The first shipment went at the end of last year and another 15,000 tonnes is now being shipped.

The sale takes pressure off storage space. Last season, some mutton stocks remained unsold because of declining interest from the Japanese market. New Zealand's other main mutton customer.

● LONDON'S COCOA futures exchange was evacuated for half an hour yesterday because of bad smells caused by sanitary cleansers.

● THE MEXICAN Government has increased the guaranteed price of 13 agricultural products, including grains, by an average of 83 per cent, effective for crops from the 1982-83 season.

● FAO SAYS the price of most agricultural commodities in world markets has dropped sharply over the past two years as a result of recession. By third quarter, 1982, the world index of commodity prices stood 22 per cent below the 1980 average.

● SKEAKERS in New South Wales voted to continue their seven-week strike over wide shearing contracts, rejecting an arbitration proposal for a return to work. Victorian and Tasmanian shearers resume work today.

● WORLD COTTON production in the 1983-84 season is projected at about 66.8m bales, down from the 67.7m bales estimated for the current season. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said a much smaller U.S. crop accounts for the decline.

● GUERRILLAS firebombed a coffee processing plant in eastern El Salvador, causing about \$2m damage, police said. Machinery at the plant at Chicomera was reduced to twisted metal.

## Nicaragua sugar quota 'a hard blow'

BY TIM COONE IN MANAGUA

THE Reagan Administration's decision to cut Nicaragua's sugar export quota by 90 per cent is a hard blow to the country, says Sr Orlando Solorzano, the acting Foreign Trade Minister.

The quota reduction from 58,000 short tons to 6,000 short tons for the year starting October 1 will reduce Nicaragua's export earnings by an estimated \$12m (\$3m) in the coming sugar season.

Continuing the move, Sr Solorzano said: "The U.S. decision was taken for purely political reasons, which goes against all principles of international trade."

"Catt forbids trade being used as a means of exerting political pressure, as does the International Sugar Agreement."

"How can anyone say there

is an international economic order, when the most powerful nation in the world threatens and coerces a small country like this?"

The U.S. is still Nicaragua's largest single market for its produce, taking 20-25 per cent of Nicaragua's total exports. All of its meat exports, expected to exceed \$27m this year,

go to the U.S. as does \$20m worth of shrimp and lobsters, and \$30m of coffee, the main export crop.

There is now speculation over whether the cut in the sugar quota will be the first in a series of measures taken by the U.S. to further restrict trade between the two countries, and to increase political pressure on the Nicaraguan Government.

Sr Solorzano said that it has been a principal objective of his ministry to diversify Nicaragua's export markets, with precisely the aim of reducing the possibilities of such pressures.

He said that contacts had already been made with a number of countries for new sugar contracts, and that they hoped to find new markets in Latin America, Europe and the Middle East.

He added that the new Malacatoya sugar complex, expected to double Nicaragua's sugar exports to over 200,000 tons per annum by the end of the decade, will not be affected by the U.S. move, and that Nicaragua was now negotiating an increase in its quota at the International Sugar Agreement meeting now taking place in Geneva.

WORLD SUGAR values fell back on the London futures market yesterday following a sharp downturn in New York overnight, writes John Edwards. The London daily price for raw sugar was cut by \$4 to \$132 a tonne. October futures closed some \$2 lower at \$131.1 after dipping to a low of \$129.3.

In Brussels yesterday, the EEC Commission at its weekly selling tender authorised the export of 47,000 tonnes of white sugar under the supplementary series, with a maximum rebate of 312.29 ECUs per tonne. Exports of 750 tonnes of white sugar, with a maximum rebate of 333.88 units, were authorised under the old series.

The quantity authorised for export was slightly below market expectations and helped prices rally in afternoon trading.

estimation system using the Landsat satellite.

Yield figures, determined by specific sampling, are more reliable and give a current estimate of average of 1.8 tons per hectare, well up on a decade ago. Yields in 1970-71, hovered around a ton per hectare. Much of the improvement is due to a favourable pricing policy and a long-term, Government-sponsored project to improve wheat cultivation.

The wheat improvement team has produced a number of locally bred high-yielding varieties for both the coastal, largely spring wheat areas, where yields now reach 4.5 tons per hectare, and the main, dry-land, wheat growing areas on the central plateau, where it is largely winter wheat.

Early in the 1970s the agronomists produced recommendations for the plateau, which have been extended to farmers over the last decade. Adoption of many of the improved management practices has enabled average yields to almost double

from 1.2 tons per hectare in Central Anatolia. Further extension efforts are still needed, particularly in the east where practices have often remained unimproved.

With the introduction of high-yielding varieties in the drier plateau areas, the Government expects a continued increase in yields.

Fallow land reduction is also being encouraged in 14 provinces.

Traditionally, fields are planted with wheat one year and left fallow the next. However, local research has shown that where precipitation is over about 400 mm and the soil deep enough then fallow can be reduced to one year in three, four or five, in rotation with pulses.

The fallow reduction policy has already been applied to the provinces of Ankara, Samsun and Trabzon in Northern Anatolia, as part of a World Bank-funded integrated rural development project set up in 1977. Two FAO agricultural advisers help with agricultural extension, much of which has focused on fallow reduction.

In Samsun county, in Corum, the fallow has been reduced from 50,000 hectares in 1973 to 20,000 hectares in 1982, and lentils introduced into a five-year rotation. Marketing policies encouraged lentil plantings, with the floor price fixed by the Government and state buying of the crop through the Soil Products Office.

Chemical fertiliser use doubled from 9,000 tons in 1978 to 18,000 tons in 1981 and herbicide use increased ninefold from 6 tons in 1978. All this has led, project staff say, to a yield increase from an average of 1.35 tons per hectare in 1976-77 to 2 tons per hectare in 1981.

As a whole in the two provinces, only 28 per cent of land was fallowed in 1981 compared to 40 per cent in 1977. Fertiliser consumption rose from 51,600 tons in 1975 to 154,300 tons in 1981, as farmers took advantage of project credit. The project cost

## Wet weather delays plantings

By Our Commodities Staff

THIS YEAR'S exceptionally wet spring has hit most sectors of the UK farming industry. Worst affected are potatoes and sugar beet growers, whose plantings are well behind schedule. But cereal growers and livestock farmers are also suffering.

The Ministry of Agriculture's monthly agricultural report for April says early potatoes have been slow to emerge and some have suffered frost damage. Maincrop plantings had been delayed by wet land conditions and were only about half completed by the end of the month.

Sugar beet plantings had been held back for the same reason, the report says, and germination of earlier drilled crops, had been retarded.

As the home of wheat it has a major responsibility to preserve the many different native genotypes likely to be lost when farmers plantings had been delayed by wet land conditions and were only about half completed by the end of the month.

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## PRICE CHANGES

In tonnes unless stated otherwise	May 11 1983	May 10 1983	Month ago
Metals			
Aluminium	2880	2880	
Free mkt	1410/40	1410/40	
Copper	11151.5	11151.5	
3 months	11177.25	11177.25	
5 months	11194.0	11194.0	
Gold buy	444.5	444.5	
5 months	444.5	444.5	
Nickel	2880	2880	
Free mkt	2880	2880	
Platinum	1122.75	1122.75	
5 months	1122.75	1122.75	
Silver	2880	2880	
5 months	2880	2880	
Tin	2880	2880	
5 months	2880	2880	
Tungsten	2880	2880	
5 months	2880	2880	
Wolfram	2880	2880	
5 months	2880	2880	
Zinc	2880	2880	
5 months	2880	2880	
Producers	2880	2880	

## LONDON OIL SPOT PRICES

CRUDE OIL—FOB (per barrel)	Latest	Change
Arabian Light	29.70-29.80	+0.10
Iranian Light	29.70-29.80	+0.10
Arabian Heavy	29.70-29.80	+0.10
Iranian Heavy	29.70-29.80	+0.10
North Sea (Forth)	29.70-29.80	+0.10
North Sea (Brent)	29.70-29.80	+0.10
African/Benny	29.70-29.80	+0.10

PRODUCTS—North West Europe	Latest	Change
Premium gasoline	297.30	-1.5
Gas oil	297.30	-1.5
Heavy fuel oil	297.30	-1.5

## GOLD MARKETS

Gold rose just \$1 an ounce from \$444.44 to \$445.44 in the London bullion market yesterday to finish at \$444.44. The metal opened at \$444.44 and traded between \$444.44 and a low of \$442.44. Trading was generally subdued although rising Middle East tension provided some underpinning.

In Frankfurt the 12 1/2 kilo bar was fixed at DM 34,900 per kilo (\$445.15 per ounce) from DM 34,820 (\$444.50) previously and closed at \$444.44 from \$443.44.

In Luxembourg the dollar per ounce equivalent of the 12 1/2 kilo

bar at the fixing was \$443.0 from \$443.50. In Zurich gold finished at \$445.44 from \$444.44.

LONDON FUTURES  
May 11  
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)  
Close \$444.44 (\$444.44)  
Opening \$444.44 (\$444.44)  
Afternoon trading \$444.44 (\$444.44)

Gold Coins May 11  
King George VI (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
Queen Elizabeth II (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/10 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/20 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/40 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/80 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/160 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/320 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/640 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/1280 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/2560 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/5120 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/10240 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/20480 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/40960 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/81920 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/163840 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/327680 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/655360 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/1310720 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/2621440 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/5242880 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/10485760 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/20971520 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/41943040 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/83886080 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/167772160 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/335544320 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/671088640 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/1342177280 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/2684354560 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/5368709120 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/10737418240 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/21474836480 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/42949672960 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/85899345920 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/171798691840 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/343597383680 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/687194767360 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/1374389534720 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/2748779069440 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/5497558138880 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/10995116277760 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/21990232555520 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.75)  
1/43980465111040 Kilo (\$20.75, \$20.



## FT LONDON SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

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## BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Vol
<b>"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)</b>						
991	991	Trustee's Fund 1983	991	1.27	1.82	
1001	1001	Trustee's Fund 1984	1001	1.27	1.82	
1011	1011	Trustee's Fund 1985	1011	1.27	1.82	
1021	1021	Trustee's Fund 1986	1021	1.27	1.82	
1031	1031	Trustee's Fund 1987	1031	1.27	1.82	
1041	1041	Trustee's Fund 1988	1041	1.27	1.82	
1051	1051	Trustee's Fund 1989	1051	1.27	1.82	
1061	1061	Trustee's Fund 1990	1061	1.27	1.82	
1071	1071	Trustee's Fund 1991	1071	1.27	1.82	
1081	1081	Trustee's Fund 1992	1081	1.27	1.82	
1091	1091	Trustee's Fund 1993	1091	1.27	1.82	
1101	1101	Trustee's Fund 1994	1101	1.27	1.82	
1111	1111	Trustee's Fund 1995	1111	1.27	1.82	
1121	1121	Trustee's Fund 1996	1121	1.27	1.82	
1131	1131	Trustee's Fund 1997	1131	1.27	1.82	
1141	1141	Trustee's Fund 1998	1141	1.27	1.82	
1151	1151	Trustee's Fund 1999	1151	1.27	1.82	
1161	1161	Trustee's Fund 2000	1161	1.27	1.82	
1171	1171	Trustee's Fund 2001	1171	1.27	1.82	
1181	1181	Trustee's Fund 2002	1181	1.27	1.82	
1191	1191	Trustee's Fund 2003	1191	1.27	1.82	
1201	1201	Trustee's Fund 2004	1201	1.27	1.82	
1211	1211	Trustee's Fund 2005	1211	1.27	1.82	
1221	1221	Trustee's Fund 2006	1221	1.27	1.82	
1231	1231	Trustee's Fund 2007	1231	1.27	1.82	
1241	1241	Trustee's Fund 2008	1241	1.27	1.82	
1251	1251	Trustee's Fund 2009	1251	1.27	1.82	
1261	1261	Trustee's Fund 2010	1261	1.27	1.82	
1271	1271	Trustee's Fund 2011	1271	1.27	1.82	
1281	1281	Trustee's Fund 2012	1281	1.27	1.82	
1291	1291	Trustee's Fund 2013	1291	1.27	1.82	
1301	1301	Trustee's Fund 2014	1301	1.27	1.82	
1311	1311	Trustee's Fund 2015	1311	1.27	1.82	
1321	1321	Trustee's Fund 2016	1321	1.27	1.82	
1331	1331	Trustee's Fund 2017	1331	1.27	1.82	
1341	1341	Trustee's Fund 2018	1341	1.27	1.82	
1351	1351	Trustee's Fund 2019	1351	1.27	1.82	
1361	1361	Trustee's Fund 2020	1361	1.27	1.82	
1371	1371	Trustee's Fund 2021	1371	1.27	1.82	
1381	1381	Trustee's Fund 2022	1381	1.27	1.82	
1391	1391	Trustee's Fund 2023	1391	1.27	1.82	
1401	1401	Trustee's Fund 2024	1401	1.27	1.82	
1411	1411	Trustee's Fund 2025	1411	1.27	1.82	
1421	1421	Trustee's Fund 2026	1421	1.27	1.82	
1431	1431	Trustee's Fund 2027	1431	1.27	1.82	
1441	1441	Trustee's Fund 2028	1441	1.27	1.82	
1451	1451	Trustee's Fund 2029	1451	1.27	1.82	
1461	1461	Trustee's Fund 2030	1461	1.27	1.82	
1471	1471	Trustee's Fund 2031	1471	1.27	1.82	
1481	1481	Trustee's Fund 2032	1481	1.27	1.82	
1491	1491	Trustee's Fund 2033	1491	1.27	1.82	
1501	1501	Trustee's Fund 2034	1501	1.27	1.82	
1511	1511	Trustee's Fund 2035	1511	1.27	1.82	
1521	1521	Trustee's Fund 2036	1521	1.27	1.82	
1531	1531	Trustee's Fund 2037	1531	1.27	1.82	
1541	1541	Trustee's Fund 2038	1541	1.27	1.82	
1551	1551	Trustee's Fund 2039	1551	1.27	1.82	
1561	1561	Trustee's Fund 2040	1561	1.27	1.82	
1571	1571	Trustee's Fund 2041	1571	1.27	1.82	
1581	1581	Trustee's Fund 2042	1581	1.27	1.82	
1591	1591	Trustee's Fund 2043	1591	1.27	1.82	
1601	1601	Trustee's Fund 2044	1601	1.27	1.82	
1611	1611	Trustee's Fund 2045	1611	1.27	1.82	
1621	1621	Trustee's Fund 2046	1621	1.27	1.82	
1631	1631	Trustee's Fund 2047	1631	1.27	1.82	
1641	1641	Trustee's Fund 2048	1641	1.27	1.82	
1651	1651	Trustee's Fund 2049	1651	1.27	1.82	
1661	1661	Trustee's Fund 2050	1661	1.27	1.82	
1671	1671	Trustee's Fund 2051	1671	1.27	1.82	
1681	1681	Trustee's Fund 2052	1681	1.27	1.82	
1691	1691	Trustee's Fund 2053	1691	1.27	1.82	
1701	1701	Trustee's Fund 2054	1701	1.27	1.82	
1711	1711	Trustee's Fund 2055	1711	1.27	1.82	
1721	1721	Trustee's Fund 2056	1721	1.27	1.82	
1731	1731	Trustee's Fund 2057	1731	1.27	1.82	
1741	1741	Trustee's Fund 2058	1741	1.27	1.82	
1751	1751	Trustee's Fund 2059	1751	1.27	1.82	
1761	1761	Trustee's Fund 2060	1761	1.27	1.82	
1771	1771	Trustee's Fund 2061	1771	1.27	1.82	
1781	1781	Trustee's Fund 2062	1781	1.27	1.82	
1791	1791	Trustee's Fund 2063	1791	1.27	1.82	
1801	1801	Trustee's Fund 2064	1801	1.27	1.82	
1811	1811	Trustee's Fund 2065	1811	1.27	1.82	
1821	1821	Trustee's Fund 2066	1821	1.27	1.82	
1831	1831	Trustee's Fund 2067	1831	1.27	1.82	
1841	1841	Trustee's Fund 2068	1841	1.27	1.82	
1851	1851	Trustee's Fund 2069	1851	1.27	1.82	
1861	1861	Trustee's Fund 2070	1861	1.27	1.82	
1871	1871	Trustee's Fund 2071	1871	1.27	1.82	
1881	1881	Trustee's Fund 2072	1881	1.27	1.82	
1891	1891	Trustee's Fund 2073	1891	1.27	1.82	
1901	1901	Trustee's Fund 2074	1901	1.27	1.82	
1911	1911	Trustee's Fund 2075	1911	1.27	1.82	
1921	1921	Trustee's Fund 2076	1921	1.27	1.82	
1931	1931	Trustee's Fund 2077	1931	1.27	1.82	
1941	1941	Trustee's Fund 2078	1941	1.27	1.82	
1951	1951	Trustee's Fund 2079	1951	1.27	1.82	
1961	1961	Trustee's Fund 2080	1961	1.27	1.82	
1971	1971	Trustee's Fund 2081	1971	1.27	1.82	
1981	1981	Trustee's Fund 2082	1981	1.27	1.82	
1991	1991	Trustee's Fund 2083	1991	1.27	1.82	
2001	2001	Trustee's Fund 2084	2001	1.27	1.82	
2011	2011	Trustee's Fund 2085	2011	1.27	1.82	
2021	2021	Trustee's Fund 2086	2021	1.27	1.82	
2031	2031	Trustee's Fund 2087	2031	1.27	1.82	
2041	2041	Trustee's Fund 2088	2041	1.27	1.82	
2051	2051	Trustee's Fund 2089	2051	1.27	1.82	
2061	2061	Trustee's Fund 2090	2061	1.27	1.82	
2071	2071	Trustee's Fund 2091	2071	1.27	1.82	
2081	2081	Trustee's Fund 2092	2081	1.27	1.82	
2091	2091	Trustee's Fund 2093	2091	1.27	1.82	
2101	2101	Trustee's Fund 2094	2101	1.27	1.82	
2111	2111	Trustee's Fund 2095	2111	1.27	1.82	
2121	2121	Trustee's Fund 2096	2121	1.27	1.82	
2131	2131	Trustee's Fund 2097	2131	1.27	1.82	
2141	2141	Trustee's Fund 2098	2141	1.27	1.82	
2151	2151	Trustee's Fund 2099	2151	1.27	1.82	
2161	2161	Trustee's Fund 2100	2161	1.27	1.82	
2171	2171	Trustee's Fund 2101	2171	1.27	1.82	
2181	2181	Trustee's Fund 2102	2181	1.27	1.82	
2191	2191	Trustee's Fund 2103	2191	1.27	1.82	
2201	2201	Trustee's Fund 2104	2201	1.27	1.82	
2211	2211	Trustee's Fund 2105	2211	1.27	1.82	
2221	2221	Trustee's Fund 2106	2221	1.27	1.82	
2231	2231	Trustee's Fund 2107	2231	1.27	1.82	
2241	2241	Trustee's Fund 2108	2241	1.27	1.82	
2251	2251	Trustee's Fund 2109	2251	1.27	1.82	
2261	2261	Trustee's Fund 2110	2261	1.27	1.82	
2271	2271	Trustee's Fund 2111	2271	1.27	1.82	
2281	2281	Trustee's Fund 2112	2281	1.27	1.82	
2291	2291	Trustee's Fund 2113	2291	1.27	1.82	
2301	2301	Trustee's Fund 2114	2301	1.27	1.82	
2311	2311	Trustee's Fund 2115	2311	1.27	1.82	
2321	2321	Trustee's Fund 2116	2321	1.27	1.82	
2331	2331	Trustee's Fund 2117	2331	1.27	1.82	
2341	2341	Trustee's Fund 2118	2341	1.27	1.82	
2351	2351	Trustee's Fund 2119	2351	1.27	1.82	
2361	2361	Trustee's Fund 2120	2361	1.27	1.82	
2371	2371	Trustee's Fund 2121	2371	1.27	1.82	
2381	2381	Trustee's Fund 2122	2381	1.27	1.82	
2391	2391	Trustee's Fund 2123	2391	1.27	1.82	
2401	2401	Trustee's Fund 2124	2401	1.27	1.82	
2411	2411	Trustee's Fund 2125	2411	1.27	1.82	
2421	2421	Trustee's Fund 2126	2421	1.27	1.82	
2431	2431	Trustee's Fund 2127	2431	1.27	1.82	
2441	2441	Trustee's Fund 2128	2441	1.27	1.82	
2451	2451	Trustee's Fund 2129	2451	1.27	1.82	
2461	2461	Trustee's Fund 2130	2461	1.27	1.82	
2471	2471	Trustee's Fund 2131	2471	1.27	1.82	
2481	2481	Trustee's Fund 2132	2481	1.27	1.82	
2491	2491	Trustee's Fund 2133	2491	1.27	1.82	
2501	2501	Trustee's Fund 2134	2501	1.27	1.82	
2511	2511	Trustee's Fund 2135	2511	1.27	1.82	
2521	2521	Trustee's Fund 2136	2521	1.27	1.82	
2531	2531	Trustee's Fund 2137	2531	1.27	1.82	
2541	2541	Trustee's Fund 2138	2541	1.27	1.82	
2551	2551	Trustee's Fund 2139	2551	1.27	1.82	
2561	2561	Trustee's Fund 2140	2561	1.27	1.82	
2571	2571	Trustee's Fund 2141	2571	1.27	1.82	
2581	2581	Trustee's Fund 2142	2581	1.27	1.82	
2591	2591	Trustee's Fund 2143	2591	1.27	1.82	
2601	2601	Trustee's Fund 2144	2601	1.27	1.82	
2611	2611	Trustee's Fund 2145	2611	1.27	1.82	
2621	2621	Trustee's Fund 2146	2621	1.27	1.82	
2631	2631	Trustee's Fund 2147	2631	1.27	1.82	
2641	2641	Trustee's Fund 2148	2641	1.27	1.82	
2651	2651	Trustee's Fund 2149	2651	1.27	1.82	
2661	2661	Trustee's Fund 2150	2661	1.27	1.82	
2671	2671	Trustee's Fund 2151	2671	1.27	1.82	
2681	2681	Trustee's Fund 2152	2681	1.27	1.82	
2691	2691	Trustee's Fund 2153	2691	1.27	1.82	
2701	2701	Trustee's Fund 2154	2701	1.27	1.82	
2711	2711	Trustee's Fund 2155	2711	1.27	1.82	
2721	2721	Trustee's Fund 2156	2721	1.27	1.82	



## OIL AND GAS—Continued

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## CURRENCIES; MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## Pound and dollar soften in quiet trade

Sterling was fairly steady despite nervousness about the general election result. Buying from the Middle East kept the pound firm in the early morning, but the general trend was for a slight easing against most currencies apart from the dollar.

The dollar lost ground, following a fall of about 1 per cent in Eurodollar interest rates. This resulted from better sentiment in U.S. markets on Tuesday when the Federal Reserve announced the injection of a large amount of liquidity into the banking system through purchases of Treasury paper. Foreign exchange trading was rather quiet yesterday, however, partly reflecting the early closure of some Continental centres ahead of Ascension Day.

**STERLING** — Trading range against the dollar in 1983 is 1.5245 to 1.5445. April average 1.5421. Trade-weighted index 83.1, unchanged from noon, compared with 83.2 at the opening, 84.0 at the previous close, and 91.5 six months ago. Sterling has been under pressure since all prices will remain stable, following the latest Opec settlement. Just recently, however, it has started to lose a little ground on pre-election nerves and the possibility of a fall in domestic interest rates.

Sterling opened at \$1.5675-1.5685, and traded within a range of \$1.5650 to \$1.5735, before closing at \$1.5680-1.5690, a rise of 35 points on the day. The pound was unchanged at DM 3.3275 against the D-mark, but eased to FF 115.1 from FF 115.250 against the French franc, to SwFr 3.19 from SwFr 3.20 in terms of the Swiss franc, and to ¥369 from ¥364.25 against the Japanese yen.

**DOLLAR** — Trade-weighted index (Bank of England) 121.4 against 126.0 six months ago. The dollar has been firm during a period of uncertainty about oil prices and upheaval within the EMS. U.S. interest rates have not fallen as once expected and although better money supply figures have led to renewed hopes, future trends remain obscure.

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

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